

# publication

of the Retail, Wholesale & Dept. Store Union • CIO

Vol. I, No. 1

NEW YORK, N. Y.

JUNE 6, 1954

CONVENTION  
ISSUE



**SYMBOLIC OF UNITY** at historic Convention of RWDSU in Atlantic City was four-way handclasp above at opening session May 25. Congratulations on merger of three unions were exchanged by, l. to r.:

Alex Bail, president of Playthings, Jewelry and Novelty Workers Int'l Union; Arthur Osman, president of Distributive, Processing and Office Workers of America; John Riffe, Exec. Vice President of CIO; and Max Greenberg, president of powerful new Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, CIO.

## Convention Forms Great New RWDSU-CIO With 140,000 Members

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## RWDSU CONVENTION

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## Publication

of the  
RETAIL, WHOLESALE & DEPT.  
STORE UNION • CIO

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Max Greenberg, President  
Martin C. Kyne, Sec'y-Treasurer  
Jack Paley, Exec. Secretary  
Alvin E. Heaps Arthur Osman  
Alex Bail  
Executive Vice-Presidents

Published every second Sunday

Subscription Price \$2.00 per year

Reentered as second class matter June 4, 1954,  
at the post office at New York, N. Y., under  
the Act of August 24, 1912.

Vol. I, No. I June 6, 1954

# CIO Says 'Well Done' To RWDSU Convention

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—Leaders of the National CIO headed by Pres. Walter Reuther and Exec. Vice-Pres. John Riffe, pledged their full unqualified support to the new International Union which has been formed by the affiliation to the RWDSU of the DPOWA and the PJNWIU.

In a letter to Pres. Max Greenberg, Reuther expressed regret that his wife's illness prevented him from joining with the delegates "in the discussions and actions to build a great CIO International Union in a jurisdiction so sorely in need of organization."

Riffe, addressing the convention, said he had just finished talking with Pres. Reuther, and that he had been told: "Go over to the Convention and give them my greetings, and well wishes, and say to them to carry on the good work they have started. I am happy that things are coming out in good shape for them in Atlantic City."

"Pres. Reuther's heart and his prayers are here with you today in this hall," Riffe continued, "and he will be working with you and helping you to organize the unorganized workers across the country—doing everything he can to help you build a greater and more powerful Union."

Concerning the DPOWA, Riffe declared: "We in the CIO are happy to have them back in this International Union and in CIO." He also praised the decision of the PJNWIU to affiliate with the RWDSU.

"Under the wise guidance and able leadership of Max Greenberg, you are now started on the road to a new day in your Union," Riffe added. "The goal you must set is to bring into your Union the hundreds of thousands of men and women in your jurisdiction and give them the benefits of your collective bargaining contracts."

In a stirring climax that brought cheers and applause from the assembled delegates, Riffe declared: "Let nothing take you off that road; let no one stand in your way; let no one retard your progress as you march down this highway to a brighter and better day."

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Newspaper

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\$50 U. S.  
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Bond!

THIS IS THE FIRST ISSUE of your new union newspaper, published in place of both the former RWDSU Employee and the DPO's Union Voice. It's so new it hasn't even got a name. We're asking you, the readers, to help us give it one. Just put the name you like on a postcard, together with your name, address and local union, and send it in any time before June 25.

In case of duplication of winning name, earliest postmarked entry will be the winner. Judges will be the officers of the RWDSU.

THE KIND OF PAPER YOU LIKE—That's the kind of paper we want this to be. We hope you like this first issue. As you can see, a lot of it is devoted to the historic RWDSU Convention held May 24-27 at Atlantic City.

But we won't be having a convention to report in each issue—and there will be 24 issues a year coming to your home. That means we need news—news of your local, its victories (and defeats, though we hope there won't be any); news of organizing, of negotiations, of social activities, political action, sports . . . in fact, all the news you like.

You can help us give you that kind of paper. See to it that your local sends in the news and we'll see that it's printed.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU personally, too. Beginning with the next issue, we'll be running a Letters to the Editor column. Send in your letters, but please try to keep them brief. And don't forget to submit a name for the paper. Send it to RWDSU Publication, 100 West 42nd St., New York 36, N. Y. We'll be seeing you, just two weeks from now, and every two weeks after that.

## The Convention Day By Day

FIRST DAY A. M.: Int'l Rep. Frank E. Meloni (also N. J. State Assemblyman) opens the Convention . . . Invocation by Right Rev. Monsignor Higgins . . . Introduction of temporary chairman, George Braverman, Gen. Org., Local 262, New Jersey . . . B. Schragge, Atlantic City Auditor, welcomes delegates. Address by Mike Mann, CIO Reg. Dir., N. Y. and N. J. . . . Al Heaps, RWDSU sec.-treas., reads Convention Call . . . Report by Credentials Committee—Samuel Lowenthal, chairman, and N. Jerome Kaplan, secretary. Presentation of Resolution on seating of delegates from all three unions by Exec. Sec. Martin C. Kyne . . . Main report of convention by Pres. Max Greenberg . . . Appointment Arrangements Committee (John Cooney, chairman; George Braverman, secretary, and Floor Committee (Joseph Honan, chairman; John Capell Jr., secretary) . . . Report of Rules & Order Committee (Julius Sum, chairman, John Horan, secretary.)

FIRST DAY P. M.: Messages read from CIO Pres. Walter Reuther, Adlai Stevenson; Harry S. Truman; Carl Hoyerman, N. J. Commissioner of Labor; Clothing Workers and Steel Workers . . . Session adjourned and Convention went into Memorial Session for the late Irving M. Simon, (RWDSU president 1948-53.)

SECOND DAY A. M.: Invocation by Rabbi Weiner . . . Report by President's

Report Committee (Thomas MacLachlan, chairman; Frank Parker, secretary) . . . Discussion by Julius Sum (pres., Local 338), Hank Anderson (pres., Chicago Jt. Bd.) and Bill Michelson (Dist. 65 Org. Dir.) . . . Addresses by Louis Hollander, Pres., N. Y. State CIO Council, and John V. Riffe, Exec. V-P, CIO.

SECOND DAY, P. M.: Introduction of Jay Kramer, chairman, N. Y. State Labor Board, and members of N. J. Mediation Board, including Secy. Allan Weisenfeld and Chairman Mason Gross, and Arthur Chapin of N. J. CIO.

Discussion on Officer's Report by PJN Org. Dir. Dominick Tripode, Int'l Rep. Charles Hess, Southern Dist. John Schuller Int'l Rep. Nick Zarro, Vice Pres. John Horan and Dist. 65 Pres. David Livingston . . . Address by Paul Krebs, pres., N. J. State CIO . . . Temporary report by the Constitution Committee (Irving Rosenberg, chairman, and Milton Weisberg, secretary) . . . Evening: N. J. locals hosts at cocktail party and buffet supper.

THIRD DAY A. M.: Invocation by Rev. Theodore E. Harper . . . Messages from CIO Utility Workers, American Radio Assn., Oil Workers, Lithographers, Woodworkers and Glass Workers . . . Talk on Union Label and presentation of suit to raffle winner by Leonard Levy, General Org., Amalgamated Clothing Workers CIO. Discussion of

proposed Constitution by Dist. 65 Exec. V. P. Jack Paley, Vice Pres. Milton Weisberg, Ernest Jones and Lawrence Fulton. Unanimous approval of Constitution by delegates. Addresses by Joseph Schlossberg of Histadrut and N. J. Gov. Robert E. Meyner.

THIRD DAY P. M.: Greetings from Shipbuilders, Furniture Workers and Stone Workers. Address by Herbert Hill of NAACP. Adoption of resolutions submitted by Resolutions Committee (Alex Bail, chairman; John Schuller, secretary.)

FOURTH DAY A. M.: Invocation by Rev. G. G. Carlson. Canadian delegation presents contribution to strikers at Gadsden, Ala., and Port Arthur, Tex. Talk and film strip on political action, by Tilford Dudley, Asst. Dir., PAC. Addresses by Alex Bail, president of former PJNWIU, and Arthur Osman, president of former DPOWA, on problems and perspectives of the merger. Pres. Greenberg turns over chair to Arthur Osman . . . Nominations Committee (Hank Anderson, chairman) report on nominations for Executive Board, General Council, and top officers. Election by acclamation. Max Greenberg nominated for President by Irving Rosenberg. Unanimous vote in favor, followed by demonstration for all elected officers. Pres. Greenberg thanks delegates, fellow-officers in concluding remarks. Convention adjourns 1:30 P. M.

Publication of RWDSU



# Convention Unites 3 Unions To Form a Greater RWDSU

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—A great event in CIO history was experienced last week by more than 850 delegates to the Seventh Convention of the Retail, Wholesale and Dept. Store Union-CIO, as they established a new and bigger RWDSU of 140,000 members through affiliation of the 50,000-member Distributive, Processing and Office Workers and the 20,000-member Plaything, Jewelry and Novelty Workers.

The merger Convention, held May 24 through May 27 at the Chelsea Hotel, received official approval and a pledge of support from national CIO, as expressed in person by CIO Exec. Vice-Pres. John V. Riffe, and by letter from CIO Pres. Walter P. Reuther.

Elected by acclaim at the Convention, without a single dissent, was a slate of six top officers of the new union headed by Pres. Max Greenberg, and including Sec.-Treas. Martin C. Kyne, Exec. Sec. Jack Paley, and Exec. Vice-Presidents Alvin E. Heaps, Arthur Osman and Alex Bail.

Delegates of both DPO and PJN met in special conventions on Sunday, May 23, and formally approved the move into RWDSU. The following day at the RWDSU's opening session, roars of approval greeted a resolution chartering DPO and PJN locals and seating their delegates.

The delegates adopted a new Constitution for the International Union, designed expressly to serve the interests of the members and to guarantee the autonomy of the local unions.

## Constitution Adopted

The Constitution, described by observers as among the most democratic to be found in the labor movement, provides for two responsible leadership bodies in addition to the team of top officers.

Both of these bodies were unanimously elected at the Convention. They consist of the International Executive Board, composed of the officers plus the International Vice-Presidents, and the General Council, a larger group made up of the officers, the Executive Board and representatives of all areas with 300 or more members.

The Executive Board is to meet at least three times a year, while the General Council will convene at least once a year.

What Pres. Max Greenberg in his keynote address to the Convention described as "one of the largest, and potentially the largest union in the United States," is concentrated mainly in such areas as met-



Opening session of RWDSU Convention May 24 in Atlantic City found large hall at Chelsea Hotel filled to capacity with 850 delegates from 35 states, five Canadian provinces.

ropolitan New York and the northeast, where some 85,000 members live and work. Of this group, the New York area constitutes some 60,000, and is the single largest and most powerful section of the International.

Other points of concentrated membership are the state of Michigan, with 11,000, the midwest states with about 14,000, the South, where there are ap-

proximately 10,000 members, and Canada, with a membership in locals from coast to coast of around 14,000.

The 140,000 members who make up the new RWDSU come from three unions—RWDSU, DPO and PJN—and the Convention was actually a conclusion of many months of intensive discussions between leaders of the RWDSU and the DPO, with the Plaything, Jewelry and Novelty Workers Union entering the picture a few weeks before the Convention.

Key figures in the merger discussions during the months preceding the Convention were Pres. Greenberg and Arthur Osman, then president of DPO. Their decisive role was acknowledged by the delegates.

Plans of the new union, as expressed in Pres. Greenberg's Convention report, "are to put our newly built house in order, to make the International Union and its locals a smoothly functioning, hard-hitting machine with the resources and the willingness to organize the unorganized."

Among the outstanding trade union leaders who addressed the Convention during its four-day sessions were CIO Exec. Vice-Pres. John V. Riffe; N. Y. State CIO Pres. Louis Hollander; CIO Regional Director Mike Mann; R. J. Thomas and Dick Leonard of National CIO, and Paul Krebs, N. J. State CIO president.

A number of distinguished public figures spoke at the Convention, among them Governor Robert B. Meyner of New Jersey, Herbert Hill of the NAACP; Joseph Schlossberg of Israel's labor federation, Histadrut; and Dr. Mason Gross, chairman of the N. J. State Mediation Board.

## PJN Convention Unanimous on Move to RWDSU

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. — The Playthings, Jewelry and Novelty Workers International Union CIO, meeting in Convention on May 23, voted unanimously to disband as an International Union, return its charter to National CIO, and recommend that its locals affiliate with the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union CIO.

Representatives of each PJN local were present when the discussion was initiated by Alex Bail, PJN president, who emphasized that merger with the RWDSU was "emphatically in the best interests of our members."

CIO Exec. Vice-Pres. John V. Riffe strongly seconded the remarks of Pres. Bail. The delegates applauded vigorously when Riffe declared:

"You came into this Union voluntarily. You have a right, under your constitution and the laws of CIO, to work out your own problems. I am going to fight that you have that right always."

Without a dissenting vote, and after a thorough discussion of the issues involved, the PJN delegates approved the motion submitted by their International Executive Board. The charter with an appropriate resolution was returned to CIO and the PJN locals were chartered as affiliates of the RWDSU in time to participate in the merger Convention which started the following day.

## DPO Delegates Okay Unity; Osman an RWDSU Officer

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—Two hundred DPO delegates met in a special Convention Sunday, May 23, one day before the RWDSU Convention, and voted to approve affiliation of DPO locals with the Retail, Wholesale and Dept. Store Union CIO, creating a greater, more powerful CIO Union in the distributive field.

At a subsequent meeting Wednesday morning, May 26, the DPO delegates, led by District 65 Pres. David Livingston, expressed their conviction that the needs of the new International Union are such that the outstanding leader of DPO should be among the leadership of the new RWDSU. The delegates urged Pres. Arthur Osman to reconsider his earlier request to take a leave of absence and run for the office of executive vice-president, a post for which Livingston had been designated.

At elections of officers by the RWDSU Convention Thursday, May 27, Arthur Osman, along with the entire slate of new leaders, was unanimously voted into office.

Discussion at the special DPO conven-

tion centered on the merger proposal. Livingston, delivering the main report, declared:

"As a result primarily of the work of Pres. Osman, today we can say we are part and parcel of the entire labor movement. We are now in a position to call on the reserves of the labor movement in any fight we may face in the future."

The three-hour Special Convention was later addressed by RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg, who said, "I welcome the addition of your union to ours, and I'm equally sure also that we in RWDSU are just as welcome to you. Together we'll build a decent, strong union, whose only purpose for existence, as it should be for any union, is to better serve the workers in our industry."



# DELEGATES HAIL NEW CONSTITUTION

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.—Delegates to the RWDSU Convention, May 24-27, unanimously adopted a new Constitution described by independent observers as one of the most democratic to be found anywhere in the labor movement. The Convention's Constitution Committee was headed by Irving Rosenberg, Director of Organization of Local 108 in New Jersey.

RWDSU Vice-Pres. Milton Weisberg, who was secretary of the Constitution Committee, delivered the Committee report to the Convention, pointing out that "The purpose of this document—a purpose which has been thoroughly carried out—is to set forth the rights of the members of this International Union, and their obligations as well. This has been accomplished by spelling out the right of every local to its autonomy, which also means the right to leave this International if its members so desire."

Exec.-Sec.-Elect Jack Paley, who also served on the Committee, declared to the delegates that "Our International is a very complex organization, covering thousands of different kinds of establishments, many of them having only a few workers. It is obvious that what we require are methods and techniques which will bind us all close together, so that we can use the united strength of our organization effectively."

"This Constitution provides the machinery which makes possible the efficient use of our many resources to advance the interests of our members."

The new Constitution details the structure and functions of the International Union, including jurisdiction; duties of officers; composition and powers of the International Executive Board and the Int'l General Council; per capita obligations of the locals; eligibility for membership; grievance machinery and the locals' rights and duties.

The Int'l General Council is a broad, democratically functioning council representing every area having as few as 300 members. Those areas having 3,000 or more members are entitled to an additional representative on the Council. This body, which by virtue of the Constitutional provision is the supreme council of the International, will meet at least once a year. It has a membership of about 60, representing every section of the International.

The Int'l Executive Board is made up of vice-presidents representing every Region of the International Union. This Board is to meet at least four times a year to review the affairs of the Union and plan its programs for the ensuing period.



**CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE** was one of busiest at Convention. Here they pause to pose for photo. On Committee were: Irving Rosenberg, Chairman; Milton Weisberg, Secretary; Dominick Ammarato, Ben Berman, C. Dale Buckius, Paul Fourcade, Dave Geisler, Leroy Harris, Jack Holowchik, Gerald Hughes, Edgar Johnson, George Kaye, David Livingston, Jack Maltz, George S. Mooney, Jack Paley, Elizabeth Porter, Samuel Privalsky, Frank Procopio, Michael Sackman, Carl Sanzone, Frank Scida, Kenneth Sherbell, Walter Smishek, Morris Strully, Tom Tomassin, Dominick Tripode, Emil Willman and Meyer Winokur.

## Elect Broad Leadership Bodies

The new RWDSU Constitution sets up broad, democratic leadership bodies, including the six top officers, the International Executive Board, and the International General Council. The new RWDSU Executive Board consists of the six officers plus the vice-presidents of the International Union. The Board is to meet every three months.

The General Council of RWDSU consists of the officers and the Executive Board plus a representative from each area having at least 300 members. An area is entitled to elect an additional Council member for every additional 3,000 members. The General Council, presently numbering 64, is to meet at least once a year.

The officers elected by the Convention are:

President, Max Greenberg; Secretary-Treasurer, Martin C. Kyne; Executive Secretary, Jack Paley; Executive Vice-Presidents, Alvin Heaps, Arthur Osman, Alex Bail.

### Vice-Presidents Named

Vice-Presidents are:

Henry B. Anderson, \*Thomas Bagley, \*Joseph Binenbaum, \*Theodore Bowman, George Braverman, \*C. Dale Buckius, Harry Bush, \*John Capell, \*John V. Cooney, Gerald Emary, Louis Feldstein,

John Gallacher, Leroy Harris, \*Joseph Honan, \*John Horan, \*Martin Janow.

Also, N. Jerome Kaplan, Martin Koppel, Thomas Leone, David Livingston, Samuel Lowenthal, Joseph McCarthy, \*Thomas MacLachlan, William Michelson, Frank Parker, \*G. D. Procopio, Cleveland Robinson, John Schuler, Julius Sum, Dominick Tripode, Milton Weisberg, Earl Wolfman.

### General Council Members

International General Council members are:

Dominick Ammaratto, H. T. Anderson, Jr., Carl Andren, George Barlow, Ben Berman, Lester Bettice, William Blount, Al Brown, Frank Brown, Hugh Buchanan, Ernest Burberg, Robert Burke, Nicholas Carnes.

Also Joseph Casey, Josephine Chlupsa,

Asterisk (\*) indicates vice-president appointed by Pres. Greenberg at the close of the Convention.

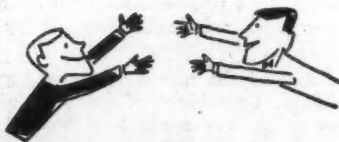
James Clark, Juanita Clark, Anthony Cavallaro, Frank Davis, Leon Davis, Morris Doswell, George Driscoll, Ernest Dumas, John Dziedzic, Paul Fourcade, Thomas Gorman, Charles Graham, Charles Hess, Bud Hodgins.

Also Eugene L. Ingles, David Krumholz, Nat Dushner, William Langston, Lee Lashley, John Meegan, Frank Meloni, Clifford Metz, James Pate, Elizabeth Porter, Jack Piper, Leo B. Reilly, Milton Reverby, Irving Rich, Robbie Mae Riddick, Joseph Romer, Irving Rosenberg, Harry Rosenzweig.

Also Sam Rosenzweig, Dan Roser, Marion Rumsey, Charles Russell, Carl Sanzone, Chris Schubert, Frank Scida, Walter Smishek, R. H. Smith, Peter Stein, James Walsh, Tom Walson, Michael Werner, Emil Willman, James Wolfram, Larney Worrell, Nicholas Zarra; plus one additional to be submitted from Rocky Mount, N. C., area.

## lighter side of the convention—

Plaid overseas caps, tee shirts emblazoned with a multi-colored maple leaf and a chorus of harmonious voices were seen and heard everywhere during the Convention as the Canadian delegation (some called it a clan) wended its way through the four-day deliberations. Delegates from points south, including Alabama, Georgia and others of the sunny states, made their mark at the Convention as they marched into the sessions with a rustic swagger, wearing straw hats, bright red bandanas and smiles which said, "How y' all" to the 1,000 other RWDSU delegates.



### Long Lost Cousin Found

Effects of the merger of RWDSU, DPO and PJN were felt by everyone at the Convention, but particularly by Pete Stein of District 65 DPO and Lou Jacobs of Local 108 RWDSU. The Convention which brought the unions together also brought about a reunion after 18 years between first cousin Pete Stein and first cousin Lou Jacobs. As far as the two cousins were concerned, the session in which they met was devoted to the reestablishment of family relations.

### Manna from Everywhere

One delegate, whose per diem subsistence money was somehow lost in the

shuffle, was nevertheless well able to subsist on the various confections handed out in front of the entrance to Convention Hall before every session. The provisions were donated by the members of New Jersey Local 262, who work at such well known confectioners as Charms Candy Co., Dairy Maid Chocolates, Burry Biscuit and Brewster Ideal Chocolate Co. An invaluable contribution to the Convention was that of the Plaything, Jewelry and Novelty Workers Union. Guaranteeing that time—and money—between sessions would be well spent, that union provided each delegate with one of the finest decks of playing cards put out by



the U. S. Playing Card Co., makers of famous Bicycles and others. One looker into the gift horse's mouth asked, "Don't we have a local that makes Cadillacs?"



### Distinguished Guest

It wasn't as a TV personality that Dr. Mason Gross addressed the delegates at one of the Convention sessions, but as Chairman of the New Jersey State Mediation Board. But the fact that he's quiz master on the Herb Shriner "Two for the Money" show added a certain glamor, it must be admitted, to his words of praise for Pres. Max Greenberg as "perhaps the most valuable member" on the Jersey labor board.

Publication of RWDSU





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## Unanimously Elected:

# Six Top Officers To Lead RWDSU

**T**HE last day of the RWDSU Convention, May 27, was Election Day for the delegates. In addition, to choosing the International Executive Board and General Council, they voted unanimously for the officers shown on this page, who will be directly responsible for leading the 140,000-member union.

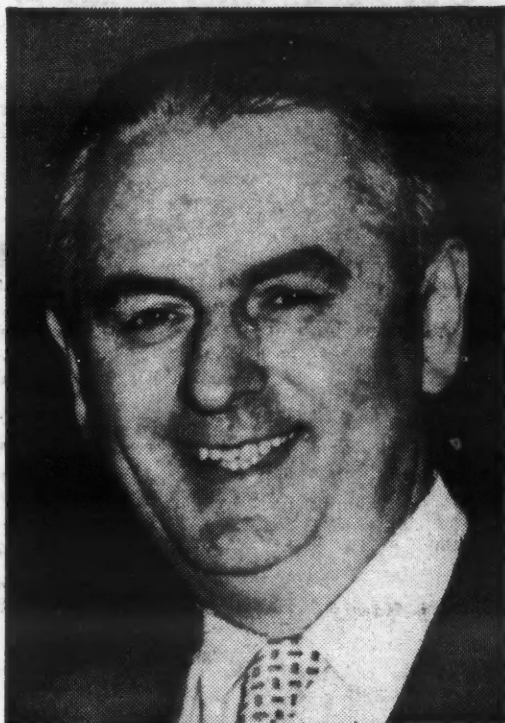
Heading the International Union is President Max Greenberg, who spearheaded the pre-convention discussion that led to the formation of one big union from three separate organizations. Serving with him will be two fellow-officers of the RWDSU, Martin C. Kyne, new Secretary-Treasurer, and Alvin E. Heaps, Executive Vice-President.

From the ranks of the former DPOWA come two of its outstanding leaders, Jack Paley, now Executive Secretary of RWDSU, and Arthur Osman, Executive Vice-President.

Alex Bail, former president of PJNWIU, now an Executive Vice-President of RWDSU, completes the leadership team that will guide the RWDSU in the months ahead.



**MAX GREENBERG**  
President



**MARTIN C. KYNE**  
Secretary-Treasurer



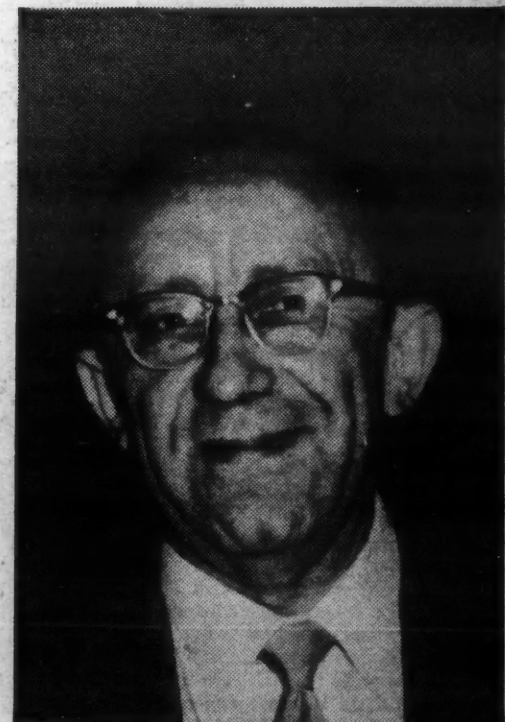
**JACK PALEY**  
Executive Secretary



**ALVIN E. HEAPS**  
Executive Vice-President



**ARTHUR OSMAN**  
Executive Vice-President



**ALEX BAIL**  
Executive Vice-President





Family of late Pres. Simon joins RWDSU officers at Convention for unveiling of his portrait. L. to r., daughter Rhoda Silverstein, Mrs. Irving M. Simon, Sec'y-Treas. Martin C. Kyne, Jerry Simon, Pres. Max Greenberg.

## Memorial Session Pays Tribute to Irving Simon

Irving M. Simon, late president of the RWDSU, was eulogized in a moving and dramatic Memorial Session held in the afternoon of May 24, first day of Convention.

Chairing the session was Samuel Lowenthal, Simon's life-long friend and associate and an International vice president, as well as business manager of Local 287, sister local of Local 1268 which Simon had headed for more than three decades.

During Simon's years of service, Lowenthal stated, "he gave the American trade union movement a new measure of social responsibility and devotion to the cause of democracy."

During Simon's tenure as president from Dec. 20, 1948 until his death on Sept. 2, 1953, "he fought the good fight to preserve our International Union and to strengthen it," Lowenthal said.

The invocation was delivered by Rabbi Herbert Weiner of Congregation Temple Israel of the Oranges and Maplewood, New Jersey. "Irving Simon was not a devotee of formal prayer but all of his life was dedicated to making a reality of the Biblical commandments," Rabbi Weiner said.

Joseph Binenbaum, who had worked with Simon for nearly thirty years and succeeded to his post as business manager of Local 1268, vividly described how Simon had founded and built the retail shoe locals in New York.

"His passing has left a void in our ranks that we cannot hope to fill," said Binenbaum. "But during all the years ahead, we will remember Irving Simon—his simple dignity, his warm heart and his ability to understand our problems and resolve them affirmatively in terms that would promote the welfare of our organization."

### R. J. Thomas Adds Praise

R. J. Thomas, assistant to the Executive Vice-President of CIO, commended Irving Simon for "building up sound and pleasant relations" between the RWDSU and the CIO. Simon was "nurtured in the traditions of Philip Murray, Allan Haywood and Sidney Hillman—the leaders who had conceived and directed the CIO," Thomas said. He added that "the merger which is today seeing the light of day owes its success primarily to the vision and wisdom of the great leader who guided the destinies of the RWDSU during its most critical period."

Last to address the memorial session was Pres. Max Greenberg, who explained, primarily for the benefit of the delegates from locals of the former DPOWA and PJNWIU, what Irving Simon had meant to the RWDSU as an organization and to himself personally. Simon's outstanding characteristic was simplicity, he said, "for Irving was never one to exaggerate his own importance. A firm believer in tol-



Sam Lowenthal Jos. Binenbaum  
Speakers at Simon Memorial Session

erance and fairness, he gave inspiration and guidance to all of us who were privileged to have been associated with him."

Greenberg urged the delegates to strive to create a "greater and more effective International Union as our lasting memorial to his work and his spirit."

At the conclusion of his remarks, Pres. Greenberg unveiled a painting of Irving Simon which, he stated, "will be hung on the wall of our new headquarters as an everlasting symbol of what he meant to us and our union."

Turning to Mrs. Anna Simon, widow of the departed RWDSU president, who attended the session together with other members of the family, Greenberg stated that she would receive a gold book "symbolic of life-long membership in the union to which your husband gave so much of himself."

Simon's son, Jerry, speaking in behalf of the family, thanked the officers and members of the RWDSU for the invitation to attend the Convention and for the "consideration you have given us during this trying period."

# Convention Actions Back CIO Policies

The RWDSU reaffirmed its adherence to the program of the CIO in a series of resolutions unanimously adopted by delegates to the Seventh Convention. Serving as chairman and secretary, respectively, of the Resolutions Committee were Exec. Vice-Pres. Alex Bail and Vice-Pres. John Schuller. The Committee unanimously recommended adoption of resolutions on the subjects listed below. Several of these were referred to the Executive Board for action, due to lack of time at the Convention.

**POLITICAL ACTION:** Emphasized that the basic conflicts between liberals and conservatives in both the Republican and Democratic parties "enhance the need of a non-party political organization, such as CIO-PAC, committed to liberal principles." Stated that "only an Administration and a Congress conscious of the future of America, and dedicated to the achievement of an ever-expanding economy based upon the full utilization of our productive resources, can cope with the problems that lie ahead." It was resolved "to continue and expand the RWDSU's program of political action and to make every effort to collect voluntary contributions of a least \$1 a year from each RWDSU member to carry on the work of CIO-PAC."

**LABOR UNITY:** Approved the action taken by the officers of the RWDSU in becoming a signatory to the No-Raiding Agreement between AFL and CIO, as well as the continuation of the unity negotiations that are being carried on between these two labor federations.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** The Supreme Court's historic decision that racial segregation in the public schools must be abolished was hailed "as reaffirming the undying American faith in the equality of all men and women, and all children, before the law." The RWDSU likewise pledged to fight "to realize the democratic rights promised by our Constitution, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin."

**ETHICAL PRACTICES & DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS:** Accorded complete and unequivocal support to the CIO's policy of "waging war on unethical practices within and without the trade union movement and of taking all necessary steps to emphasize the democratic rights of individual trade union members."

**ANTI-LABOR LEGISLATION:** The RWDSU put itself squarely behind the CIO's objective of seeking repeal of the unfair and unjust Taft-Hartley Act and of securing enactment of a "fair and just labor relations act based on the principles of the Wagner Act." Also pledged was a continuing struggle against anti-union legislation in the states and the injunctions which hamper the efforts of labor to organize.

**CIVIL LIBERTIES & INTERNAL SECURITY:** "Opposed unalterably to Communism both on the home front and on the international scene," and added: "But we are equally opposed to McCarthyism not only because it is the wrong way to

### On Arrangements Committee



George Braverman



John V. Cooney



Irving Rosenberg



Frank Meloni

Four of the eleven Arrangements Committee members who were responsible for smooth operation of Convention.

fight Communism, but because this insidious force, if permitted to continue, will divide and weaken and perhaps even destroy everything we believe in."

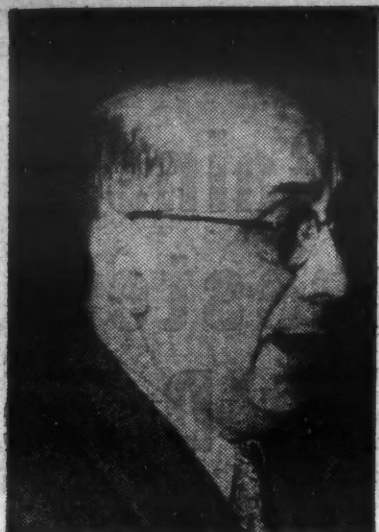
**FOREIGN POLICY:** Stated that "today peace and freedom in the world are threatened by Communism aggression, a threat which can be overcome only if the United States, as the leading power among the free nations, takes the initiative in organizing the mutual defense of the free world." The resolution urged that discussion with the Soviet Union be continued, aimed at a firm settlement of issues, and that the Republican Administration return to a policy of bi-partisan consultation as well as consultation with our allies. "We regard the development and strengthening of the world community through the United Nations as the surest road to the rule of world law and the most effective antidote to totalitarianism of the right or the left." The proposal for the international use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes was commended. "Our policy in Asia, Africa and Latin America should demonstrate our support to colonial peoples in their aspirations for self-government."

**OTHER RESOLUTIONS** adopted included: support to Israel and Histadrut; a memorial tribute to Louis Stark, veteran labor reporter; approval of the work and activity of the National Assn. for Mental Health and the City of Hope.

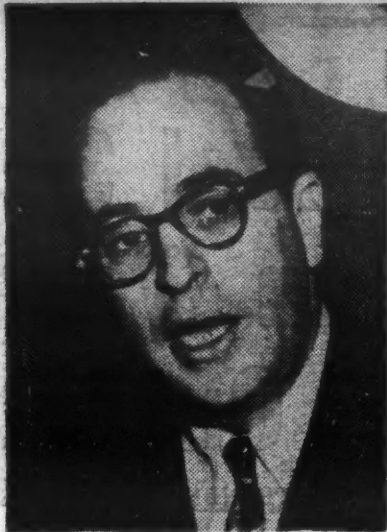


**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE** at Convention included: Alex Bail, Chairman; John Schuller, Secretary; Thomas Bagley, George Barlow, Sam Fitton, Irving Brady, Frank Brown, Josephine Chlupsa, Harkness Cupp, Ernest Dumas, Emil Fernicola, Harry Fierson, John Gallacher, Jack Greenwald, Eugene Ingles, Jack Kirkwood, Caesar Massa, John Meegan, Joseph O'Brien, G. D. Procopio, Cleveland Robinson, Harry Rosenzweig, Robert Rondeau, Sol Sherman, Robert Stanlea, and Jim Ward.





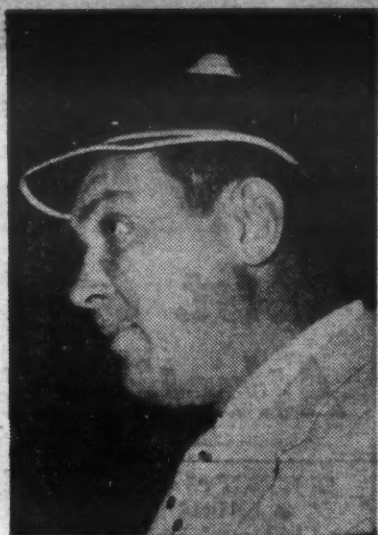
**JULIUS SUM**  
President, Local 338, N. Y.



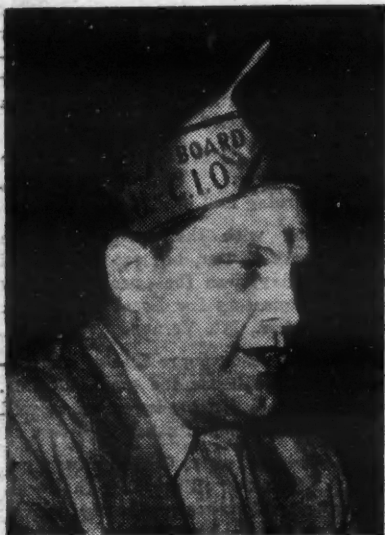
**DAVID LIVINGSTON**  
President, District 65, N. Y.



**MILTON WEISBERG**  
Manager, Local 101, Pittsburgh



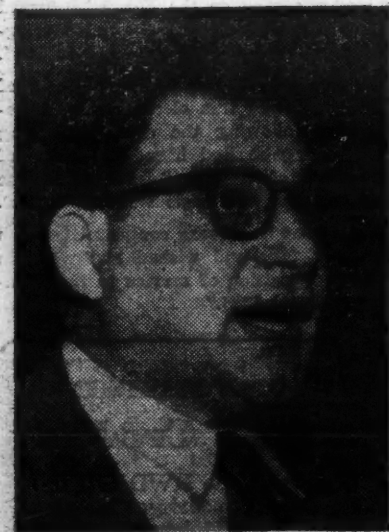
**JACK HOLOWCHIK**  
Bus. Agent, Local 147, N. Y.



**HANK ANDERSON**  
President, Chicago Jt. Bd.



**CLEVELAND ROBINSON**  
Sec'y-Treasurer, District 65, N. Y.



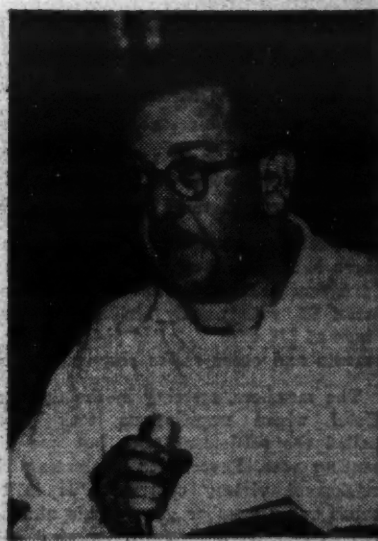
**BILL MICHELSON**  
Org. Director, District 65, N. Y.



**FRANK PARKER**  
Alabama State Director



**ERNEST J. DUMAS**  
President, Local 877, N. Y.



**JOHN J. HORAN**  
Manager, Local 360, N. Y.

## ***Their Voices Were Heard At RWDSU Convention***

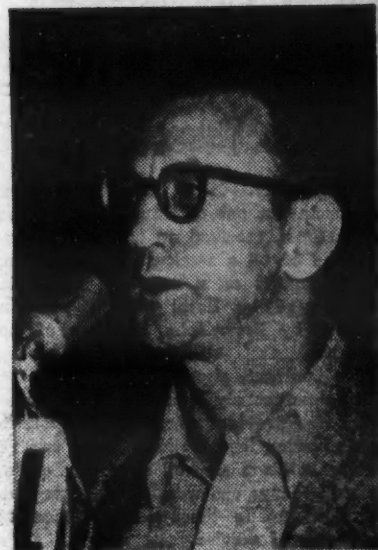
"We have come together from different backgrounds, with different ideas, but with a common determination: to build a great union, to make a reality of the glorious promise that is inherent in our organization."

That quotation from Pres. Greenberg's keynote speech was borne out by the discussion that followed. Every speaker, whether an International officer or local leader or rank and file delegate, echoed the call for unity and for concentration on organizing the unorganized.

As each speaker took his place before the microphone, the feeling grew among the delegates that this union had the resources, both moral and material, to meet and overcome the problems it would face in the future.

There were some differences too, but in the words of Pres. Greenberg, these represent a challenge to "recognize our differences and weigh against them the things that unite us."

The problems were not minimized; but a common theme ran through every speech: hope for the future, and confidence in the ability of the RWDSU to meet any test to which it may be put.



**JOSEPH McCARTHY**  
Manager, Local 306, N. Y.



**DOMINICK TRIPODE**  
Int'l Representative



## New York & Northeast

### 1000 Delegates Set for Dist. 65 Convention in Atlantic City June 12-13

DISTRICT 65 (NY)—Preparations for the Sixth Biennial Convention of '65', to be held in Atlantic City, N.J., are nearing completion as the June 12-13 week-end Convention date draws close. Approximately 1,000 delegates from the 30,000-member Union are making ready to celebrate the return of the Union to the CIO, an achievement coming at a time when the District is at the peak of its strength.

### \$3 Raises Won At Brentano's, Newly Organized

NEW YORK—More than 60 employees of Brentano's, one of New York's leading book stores, received an across-the-board increase of \$3 a week as well as many other benefits as a result of an initial pact signed by Local 585, it was announced by Pres. John Freeman of Local 585.

The contract, signed on May 19 after being unanimously approved by the members, also provides for the employees to receive seven legal holidays, plus two religious holidays as well as a day off on their birthday; one week's sick leave; and vacations up to three weeks depending on length of service.

Meanwhile, the campaign to achieve 100% organization at Brentano's by enrolling the clerical staff is making rapid progress.

Among the indications of this strength, '65' Exec. Vice-Pres. Jack Paley pointed out, were the record high dues standing achieved at the last dues inspection held May 1, and the fact that virtually all contracts outstanding in the recent wage drive have been settled.

Arrangements Committee Chairman Joe Tillem announced that all delegates will be housed at the Ambassador Hotel, one of the finest in Atlantic City, located on the boardwalk.

Scheduled to address the Convention, in addition to Arthur Osman, are RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg, Congressman Emanuel Celler, State CIO Pres. Louis Hollander and City CIO Pres. Mike Quill.

Convention sessions will be held in the world famous Convention Hall.

Transportation by chartered bus will be available to delegates beginning Friday, June 11 at 3 p.m. Buses will leave up to 7 p.m. that evening from the '65' Center at 13 Astor Place.

### Victory 'Came With Dawn' At Philly Shoe Negotiations

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—A dramatic late-hour negotiating session, with the entire retail shoe membership of District 76 in a meeting awaiting results, was the setting May 13 for settlement of the contract expiration in the shoe chains. Won were across-the-board increases of \$2 a week and other gains.

Led by Vice-Pres. Milton Reverby and Sol Molofsky of District 65, who have been assigned to work with the Philadelphia group, and District 76 Pres. Al Brown, the retail shoe members had been making strike preparations for several weeks in the face of drawn out negotiations, with such companies as Miles, Kitty Kelly, A. S. Beck, Dial, Simco and others.

#### '65' Security Plan

Gains won in the contract, which is to run for one year, include in addition to the general wage increases 50 cents a day more for extra workers and increased coverage by the '65' Security Plan for certain extras in the stores.

Molofsky pointed out that the members had adopted a strike preparations program patterned after that of District 65, with weekly strike fund savings of \$10 each, detailed picket assignments and other strike responsibilities.

The members, meeting in the Sylvania Hotel where negotiations took place, hailed the settlement with but one dissenting vote. Reverby in evaluating the settlement victory observed, "It is because every member gave of his and her energy in this wage campaign that each one knows the high quality of this agreement."



**BEST WISHES** for long and healthy retirement under District 65 Pension Plan are extended to Joe Browne by Arthur Osman as '65' officers, Joe's friends and shopmates beam with delight. Joe was given banquet in '65' Video Room and presented wrist watch by fellow employees of Arthur Beir Textiles where he worked for 10 years before retiring at age of 78. In background, l. to r., Sec.-Treas. Cleve Robinson, Org. Al Dicker, Vice-Pres. Frank Brown, Local Chairman Hy Levin, Stewards Wm. Hollenberg and Sam Kornfeld and '65' Pres. David Livingston.

### Local 305 Gains In Westchester Organizing Drive

MT. VERNON, N. Y.—A drive by Local 305 to organize workers employed in many of the stores located in the new 30 million dollar Cross-County Shopping Center in Yonkers is now under way. Pres. Harry Rosenzweig and Business Agent George Surtes of Local 305 expect a gain of 500 additional members by the time the campaign is concluded.

### PJN Local 147 Scores Gains In Four Pacts

NEW YORK—Four contract renewals covering several hundred employees of jewelry and novelty firms in the New York City area were signed during the past month, it was reported by Ted Bowman, Local 147 business manager, and Caesar Massa and Jack Holowchik, business representatives.

The new agreements all provide the following gains: 5c overall wage increases; seven paid holidays; vacations scheduled after six months employment; classification of minimum wages and wage rates; seniority; union shop and check off of dues; complete hospitalization with surgical, medical and insurance coverage; grievance and arbitration machinery.

The four contracts covered employees of Glen Jewelry Co.; Magic Novelty Co., Meba Manufacturing and Acme Chain Co. Committees of workers employed in each of the shops participated in the negotiations, together with officials of Local 147.

At Acme, the contract settlement came as a victory in a two-month fight by the union against the employer's demand for a wage cut. The committee in that shop included: Oliver Thomas, chairman, and Viola Earl, Paula Moore, Esther Smith and Larry Lamarche.

Already organized are George's Sport Shop, A. S. Beck, Miles, Westchester Bootery, Buster Brown, Stride-Rite, Lubin's Youth Center, Wallachs and other stores, with approximately 200 workers enrolled in Local 305.

Now in the process of organization are Walgreen Drugs, Chandler's Shoes, Wallace-Corning and others.

Coinciding with the opening of the Cross County Center, biggest of its kind in the country, was the opening of new union headquarters for Local 305 at 121 South 4th Ave., Mt. Vernon.

More than 2500 square feet of air conditioned offices house the general office, welfare and pension headquarters as well as meeting rooms and other facilities.

The Cross County Center campaign is part of an overall drive by the local throughout Westchester County which has been continuing for the past 18 months.

#### Staff Increased

Two additional organizers have been added to the staff to aid in this campaign. They are James Vetrano, formerly employed by Shopwell Super Markets, and Al Milstein, formerly with Red Cross Shoes.

Both organizers have long records of service as active rank and file members of the local. Rosenzweig and Surtes joined in praising them for their ability and devotion during the current drive.

### Ringle Elected to Shoe Local Post

RETAIL SHOE LOCAL 1268 (NY)—Sam Ringle, veteran leader of Local 1268, was elected business agent of that organization by an overwhelming vote May 20, it was announced by Bus. Mgr. Joseph Binenbaum.

Ringle, a member of Local 1268 for 25 years, served on the Executive Board and as a vice president prior to his designation as president of the local in 1945.

He succeeds to the unexpired term of Binenbaum who was elected to head Local 1268 following the death of Irving M. Simon, who had been the leader of the organization from its inception. The vote in favor of Ringle was 740 to 220.

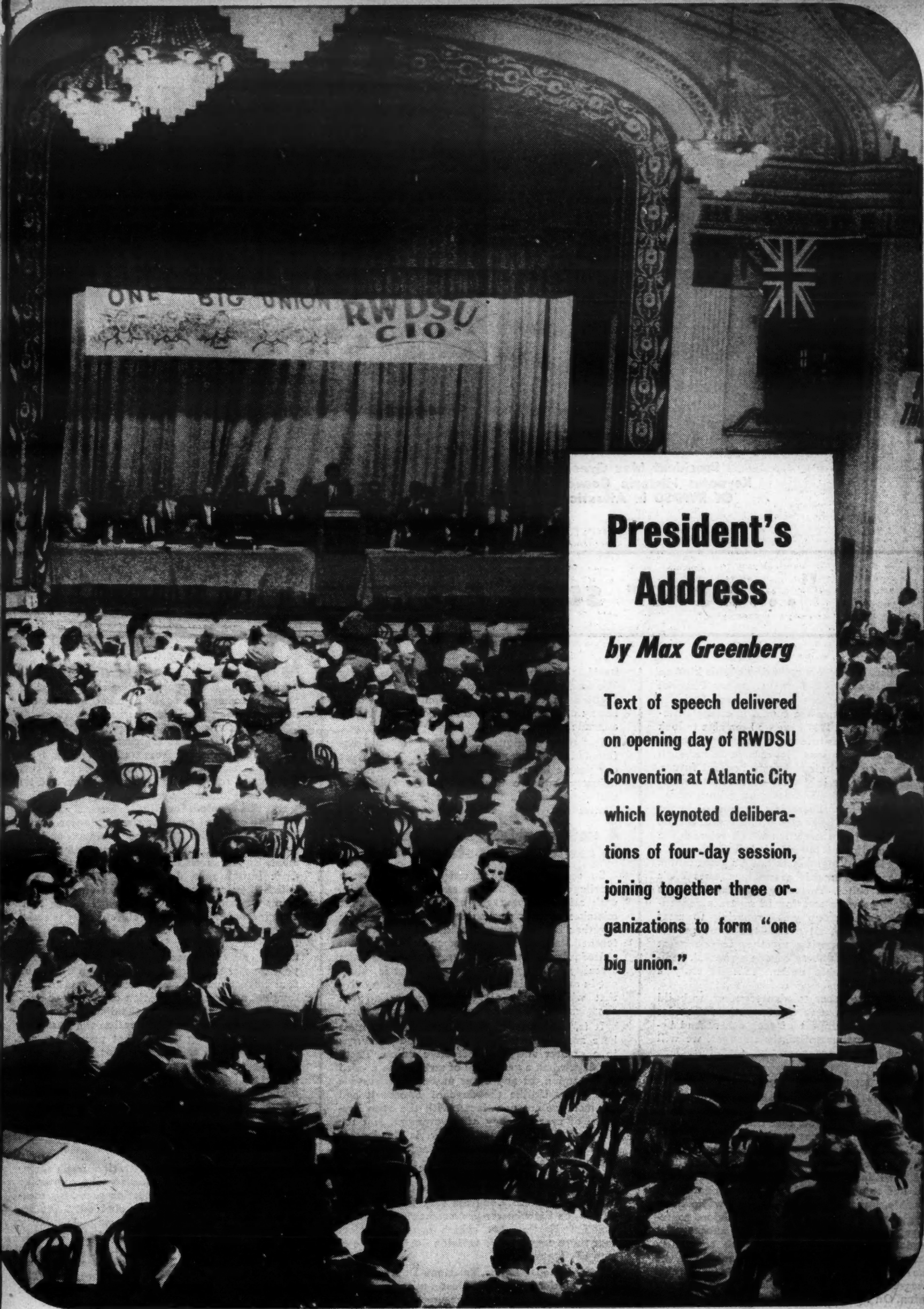
Pres. Max Greenberg congratulated him on his victory and wished him well "in your new position of service to the members of Local 1268."

### Convention Photo Credits

Photos of the RWDSU Convention appearing in this issue were taken by Sam Reiss and Frank Kerness.

Publication of RWDSU





## President's Address

*by Max Greenberg*

Text of speech delivered  
on opening day of RWDSU  
Convention at Atlantic City  
which keynoted delibera-  
tions of four-day session,  
joining together three or-  
ganizations to form "one  
big union."





**President Max Greenberg  
Keynotes Historic Convention  
Of RWDSU in Atlantic City**



## "...never such promise of a brighter future"

**I**T is usual to term a gathering of this kind an historic occasion. However, today I cannot think of a phrase that could be more fittingly applied. Never since the founding of the International Union in 1937 have we been able to look forward to the future with such great hope, such high expectations. Never have we had such promise of a brighter and more hopeful future.

The atmosphere is electric—there is an undercurrent of restrained excitement, a hush of intense expectancy. There is a feeling of latent power waiting to be roused into forceful action. Today we throw the switch which releases the pent-up desires of 140,000 trade unionists voluntarily banded together to build a great union.

The miracle of this assemblage tests one's powers of belief. Yesterday two small groups of delegates were meeting in separate conventions—a third group was preparing to meet today. Here now, all of us—the three groups combined—are meeting together in one great Convention as members of one powerful, indivisible, unbreakable union. This is truly a miracle.

We meet together to plan together, to build together—yes, even to fight together, shoulder to shoulder in support of each other. And because we are thus infinitely stronger, we will live and prosper together.

### **Fear, suspicion had to be overcome, faith restored**

We know, of course, that there are few miracles in the labor movement. This great Convention didn't just happen by accident. Great effort, much patience, mutual understanding and a willingness to subjugate personal interests had to be combined to make this gathering possible. For nearly three years we worked and fought to overcome fear and suspicion, to restore faith and confidence in one another and to defeat the many forces which constantly strove to prevent unity in our ranks. On the one hand, there were those who saw in this merger only a Communist plot to dominate our union. On the other hand, the Communist Party

itself, through its official organ, the *Daily Worker*, attacked us in the vilest of terms and accused us of forming a union which would betray our members and their most basic rights as trade unionists.

But this technique of the "big lie" and unfounded character assassination failed to divert our people from their objective of unity in our industry, and we thrust aside every obstacle that threatened to prevent the holding of this Convention.

### **A unique privilege: to be able to make a fresh start**

So today we have a unique privilege—the privilege of being able to start all over again, with all the advantages of knowing our past mistakes and our past successes. We have come together from different backgrounds, with different ideas, but with a common determination: a determination to build a great union, to make a reality of the glorious promise that is inherent in our organization; to set in motion a drive that will harness all the resources; all the energies and all the know-how at our command.

It is, of course, none too soon that we meet here and combine our strength and resources in a greater and more effective union. These are days when a great deal of strength is needed if our union, or any other union, is to survive and grow. Unlike the days of Roosevelt and Truman, we are now faced with the open hostility of every agency of government. Not the Wagner Act, but Taft-Hartley, is the law of the land. The viciousness of Congress is so obvious that no one dares hope for any constructive amendments to that anti-labor law. In fact, labor recently considered that it had achieved a victory because Congress sent back to committee the Eisenhower-proposed amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act, which meant in effect that there would be no revision during this session of Congress.

The National Labor Relations Board in new interpretations is giving clear indications daily of its subservience to management. Courts are

issuing anti-labor injunctions almost for the asking. State laws against labor unions, against the union shop and against picketing are more numerous than ever and much more vicious.

The Republicans make no apologies for their anti-labor program. It represents their concept of freedom—freedom from trade unionism, freedom to hire and fire, freedom to pay low wages, freedom to run the affairs of the nation and its business as the employers choose.

But this freedom for Big Business is not quite working out; not even for the employers. Particularly, despite its "Cadillac cabinet" and its general control over every agency of government, Big Business is unable to avoid the rapid drift into a new depression. The glee with which they celebrated their election victory is being replaced by the gloom with which they examine business trends. Publicly they pretend to deny the economic facts of life. But despite the labels which they invent, be they "readjustment" or "corrective process" or what have you, they cannot explain away the existence of four million unemployed, nor the drop in production, nor the deterioration of consumer buying power. Certainly we in the distributive field know from first hand observation that business is bad and getting worse; that people are not buying as much as they used to; that jobs are less plentiful; that wage increases are harder to get; that living costs continue to remain high; and that generally things are getting worse, not better.

### **GOP Administration ignores its own campaign pledges**

The Republican Administration has demonstrated no serious intention to take corrective measures. Even its own election promises, meager as they were, are being shelved. They refuse to improve the minimum wage law. They refuse to increase unemployment benefits. They refuse to enact a housing program. They refuse to provide a public health program. They refuse to initiate a public works program. The only economic measures which they have taken

(Continued on Page M-4)





International officers, seated in first row, go rustic with South ern delegation, all decked out with straw hats and bandanas,

## more hopeful future"



Fritzie Schwartz of Local 108, New Jersey, signs up Elizabeth Porter of Local 15, Charleston, S. C., as CIO-PAC contributor.

Nick Zarra expresses views of PJN delegates in support of Pres. Greenberg's report to RWDSU Convention.



were give-away plans to enrich the greedy at the expense of the nation, to give tax relief to the wealthy and to continue to soak the needy. Eisenhower and his cohorts have no solution for the economic ills of the nation. They seek none. They would like to convince us that these ills do not exist.

Eisenhower has stated that "slam bang action" is not necessary to prevent economic decline. We in the CIO do not propose "slam bang action". Most of the provisions of our program are merely extensions of tried and tested legislation in the public interest. In fact, their adoption should not be contingent on a recession or a depression. The minimum wage law, the unemployment compensation statutes, social security legislation and public housing are legislative keystones of our national policy. What they need are streamlining and modernizing. Inequities must be eliminated and the benefits related to present day conditions. A 40 cents minimum wage was meaningful in 1938 but meaningless in 1949. By the same token, a 75 cents minimum wage has little reality in 1954.

### For Public works program to combat unemployment

[ We can not afford the luxury of another depression. The Eisenhower administration must immediately begin a public works program designed to eliminate unemployment. We spent untold billions of dollars for war. We can spend at least as many dollars to build adequate housing for our slum dwellers, decent educational facilities for our children, and much-needed hospitals to care for the ailing and infirm.

The mess which the Republicans have created is dramatically presented in its most disgusting form by the antics of the junior Senator from Wisconsin. Were it not so tragic it might be laughable to watch the Republican high command try to disown McCarthy while at the same time it attempts to use him to gather votes. For McCarthy, the Communist Party, tiny and dwindling as it is, serves a purpose in providing a cover for attacks on the liberals and all who disagree with him. McCarthyism is an evil, a crawling, slimy evil, and has created an atmosphere wherein each man eyes his neighbor as a possible enemy, where denunciation takes the place of evidence, and disagreement makes one suspect.

Against this, the friends of freedom must stand up and fight. This country was not established by cowards and cowards will not preserve it. This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.

McCarthyism is undermining the prestige of the United States abroad at the very moment

when Soviet imperialism is creating new threats to the peace and freedom of the world. The threat of a disastrous world war still hangs over us, but the administration seems to rely chiefly on horror weapons and the power of massive retaliation. It should be apparent even to the Republicans that we can win millions of friends and allies amongst those who seek freedom from colonial oppression and relief from poverty and ignorance. Two-thirds of the world's population are stretching eager hands toward the ideals of freedom and democracy. We can win them to our cause with aid and encouragement. We must act to eliminate poverty and social injustice which are the chief breeding grounds of Communism.

No, it is none too soon for us to unite, to pool our strength, to enlist all the know-how and experience of our various organizations in the common task of preserving our basic rights to organize, to bargain collectively, to work and live with the dignity of free men and women. If we are to have an effective voice in the shaping of our own lives we will need all our strength and more, all our skill and more, all our courage and the confidence that our increased numbers will bring to all of us.

The delegates of this great new union assembled here today represent some 140,000 men and women who live and work throughout the length and breadth of our land. Some of them are white, some are Negroes; some are Protestants, Catholics and Jews; some are white collar workers; some are production workers; some are native born and some are foreign born. In fact, they are a cross section of the entire working population of the country. They truly represent America.

Yesterday the RWDSU numbered about 70,000 members. Today with the addition of the 50,000 members of the Distributive, Processing and Office Workers of America and some 20,000 members of the Playthings, Jewelry and Novelty Workers International Union, we are ranked among the truly great unions of this country. With teamwork and determination among the officers and solidarity and support from the rank and file, we will write a new page in the history of American labor.

### Strength of RWDSU: Regions are analyzed

This is our union:

● In the Northeast region embracing New York, New Jersey and the New England states, we have the largest and most powerful section of our International. Our total membership in this region is almost 85,000, the bulk of whom,

about 60,000, are concentrated in the metropolitan area of New York. What happens in this area is of course decisive to our members—not only because it contains roughly half of our total membership; not only because it is the source of the bulk of our financial strength; but above all because it provides every other local with an inexhaustible wealth of experience, with matchless examples of great accomplishment that can give confidence and inspiration to the most distant affiliates. It is from among these locals that the founders of our union come. It is in this area that some of our finest achievements have been recorded. The very size of our membership in New York City makes us a major factor in the political life of America's greatest city. The great and well-earned prestige of our locals in New York will ever be a source of pride to all of us and will gain respect for every other local which, as an affiliate of RWDSU, is associated with them.

### Mid-western area shows strong concentration points

● In Pennsylvania and West Virginia we have approximately 6,000 organized workers in our ranks with strong concentrations in Pittsburgh and Huntington, West Virginia, and a scattering of other locals throughout the area.

● In Michigan we find an important section of our International, with a number of strong, firmly-entrenched locals with approximately 11,000 members in the state.

● In the other Midwestern states we have a total of 14,000 organized workers enrolled under the banner of the RWDSU. Large memberships in Illinois and Ohio give us strongholds in these two states, while in Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and Minnesota we are represented by smoothly-functioning local unions.

● Below the Mason-Dixon line the RWDSU now numbers some 10,000 men and women organized in locals in practically every state. Former DPO locals in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee and Texas, together with the RWDSU locals in Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana, make up one of the most important segments of the CIO in the South.

● The RWDSU is an International Union in fact as well as in name—for our organization extends across national boundaries. The RWDSU in the Dominion of Canada is a trade union force to be reckoned with. Our organization embraces locals in Ontario, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Manitoba and other provinces. We have a healthy, fast-growing and effective organization in Canada, and it is up to us here in the United States to match the

"...a cross section of the working





...achieved by our brothers and sisters in north.

...have discussed our union by geographic as rather than by the regions we propose to up for administrative purposes. These regions will, of course, be tentative and subject such revision as experience may indicate. In months to come we will no doubt make many arrangements in our regions as well as in personnel policies and assignments. It is premature to attempt to define them now. We propose to continue the assistance that our locals formerly received until we are able, by mutual agreement, to effectuate whatever improvements may be practical.

But while the details of our organization will be worked out over a period of time, our basic principles and functions must be adopted at this Convention and constitute a guide to all our activity. We propose to bring our Constitution up to date to reflect the new size and scope of our union. It will provide the machinery for a democratic, voluntary and united organization.

Between conventions our union will be guided by a broad council of leaders representing every locality where there are members in our organization. Such a council should meet at least once a year to consider and act upon all the affairs of our union and every one of its locals. We further propose that an Executive Board of Vice-Presidents representing each of our regions meet at least three times a year for the same purposes.

**All members to be involved in RWDSU activities**

Generally, we propose to function in such a manner as to guarantee that all of our members be informed, consulted and involved in every action of our union.

To facilitate this objective, it is all the more essential that our local unions unite around the basic principles of CIO and participate in every phase of CIO activity.

On the community level, our union can be expected to play a much more important role in city and state CIO councils and in the activities carried on by them. On the national level, our new status, where we are now numbered among the very largest CIO unions, gives us new responsibilities and greater opportunities for service to our members. We shall see that we take full advantage of these opportunities and measure up to the responsibilities.

Of course our members alone will not automatically bring us the recognition we want and

deserve. It will require a continuing effort on the part of all our affiliates to make our presence felt and to demonstrate the qualities of leadership that I know our people possess.

### Loyal support of CIO program, policy is pledged

We are part of the CIO as we have been from its very beginning, through good years and through bad years, through trials such as few other unions have undergone. Yet we have time and again demonstrated our loyalty to CIO and we will continue to do so. We will share in the work of CIO on legislation, on political action, on civil rights and wherever else we can be of service.

We share, too, the CIO's hope that its present no-raiding agreement with the AFL will not only be lived up to, but will prove to be the prelude to real organic unity—the kind of unity which is so essential if we are to meet the challenge of Communism, McCarthyism and growing unemployment. I believe in labor unity and I believe that it can be achieved. But like everything else it has to be fought for. Our merger Convention today illustrates the fact that where there is a will to unite, there will be unity. If by our example we demonstrate the practicality and the concrete gains that can be achieved through unity, we will have performed a tremendous service not only for our own members, but for the entire labor movement.

Internationally, our greater strength will permit us to participate more effectively with our fellow trade unionists of the free and democratic unions of the world through the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, of which we are already a part by virtue of the CIO's membership in that organization. In addition, there are secretariats which have been set up along industrial lines. In these too we will take our proper place and fight side by side with the many millions of other free trade unionists throughout the world who are the best hope for the survival of democracy and the ultimate defeat of totalitarianism.

Today the political climate of our nation requires that our members be alerted to the realization that the gains which they win on the economic front are daily jeopardized by the legislative action of the representatives whom they have elected, but who in effect misrepresent them.

A bad tax bill takes dollars out of their pay envelopes. Our members must be made to understand that their welfare and the welfare of their families demands that they participate in political action. Let us make no mistake about

it—for a five or ten cent an hour wage increase, we may have to go through months of negotiations, perhaps days or weeks or months of bitter struggle on the picket line. Yet a single bill in Congress can take away from our members much more than that in the form of increased taxes.

Our support of the political action program of the CIO is not and must not be mere lip service. Political action is a bread and butter issue for our members and it is up to us as leaders to take the initiative and give our members political as well as economic leadership.

And in a similar fashion we must back the legislative program of the CIO which, together with other liberal and progressive forces in America, presents a positive program—a program which, if translated into legislation, will bring us much closer to the goal of peace, freedom and security for all. The RWDSU, as a union whose members are a cross section of the entire working population, has no special axe of its own to grind in the way of legislation.

What is good for America is good for the CIO, and by the same token what is good for the CIO is good for the RWDSU.

● Our foreign policy is the key to our future as a nation and to the survival of civilization itself. We in the RWDSU want a foreign policy that will eliminate fear, poverty and injustice throughout the world, while at the same time we defend the free world against Communist aggression. This calls for constant and close cooperation with our allies, the strengthening of the United Nations, the extension of Point Four programs, and other positive steps to rally to our side all those who believe in and want democracy and peace. Such a program can be effective only if it is the product of bi-partisan consultation with all domestic political differences set aside.

### Replace T-H Act with a fair and just labor law

● We want the Taft-Hartley Act replaced by a fair and just labor law patterned substantially after the Wagner Act.

● We want full utilization of the machinery provided in the Employment Act of 1946 to keep our economy at a high level of production with full employment.

● We want an increase in the minimum wage to \$1.25 an hour and extension of coverage to all workers.

● We want a well-rounded, adequate system of social insurance for all Americans, covering the hazards of old age, permanent and total disability, unemployment and the costs of medical care.

## ong population of America..."



Official Photo, RWDSU Convention, Atlantic City, May 24-27, 1954





**PRESIDENT'S REPORT COMMITTEE:** Thomas MacLachlan, Chairman; Frank Parker, Secretary; Carl Andren, Grace Barney, Margaret Tate Beal, B. B. Buchanan, Peter Busch, Hazel Dooley, Jerry Fischer, Frank Foti, William Goldweber, W. W. Hall, Chas. Hess, Adelaide Kraemer, Thomas Leone, James Pate, Salvatore Pella, Frank Patten, Forest Powers, Harry Rappaport, Milton Reverby, John Serratelli, Barney Smith, R. H. Smith, Lester Stromberg, George Surtes, Nick Zarra, Jeanne Bachman.

**"...potentially the largest union**

- We want enactment of a National Health Program.

- We want a real housing program to replace slums and substandard houses and to overcome housing shortages.

- We want a tax structure based on ability to pay, and we oppose any type of sales tax by whatever name it may be called.

- We want maintenance of our national resources for all of the people, not for a privileged powerful few.

- We want enactment of civil rights legislation and increased protection for civil liberties.

### **Supreme Court decision a victory for civil rights**

A major victory in the continuing fight for civil rights and against segregation was scored exactly a week ago when the Supreme Court of the United States unanimously ruled against racial segregation in the public schools of this country. This historic decision not only strikes at the root of a great evil in our country, it is also a weapon of tremendous importance in the world wide struggle against Communism. But the mere fact of the Supreme Court decision does not put an end to the struggle for civil rights—not even to the struggle against segregation in the public schools. For make no mistake about it—the die-hard proponents of racial segregation will not be converted overnight by a Supreme Court decision. It is up to us and to all others who believe in equal rights and equal opportunities, who believe in the spirit as well as the letter of the Constitution of the United States, to make the Supreme Court's ruling a reality and to go on from there, never resting until we achieve the goal of ending all discrimination, all segregation, all racial and religious prejudice.

The direction of all our thinking and all our

planning for the future of the RWDSU must be geared to the kind of union we now are: one of the largest, and potentially the largest union in the United States.

I have said that our union embraces a cross-section of the people of America. This difference in background and experience is reflected in different degrees of understanding and knowledge. Some of us have absorbed trade unionism from earliest childhood; others have only just begun to learn what a union is and how it functions. It is the duty and the responsibility of the International Union to give to all its members a clear understanding of the movement of which they are a part.

Our members, like all other workers, need a solid grounding in parliamentary procedure, training of shop stewards, handling of grievances, political action, and organizing techniques. The medium through which these educational activities are carried on must, of course, be our local unions. But the International can play a fundamental role in supplying the local unions with guidance, with printed material, and with trained personnel if necessary. Furthermore, the International Union should be in a position to correlate the educational activities of the locals by organizing seminars, summer schools, extension courses and educational conferences.

An important part of the educational progress of the RWDSU revolves around the training of local officers, organizers and others who carry out the day to day tasks of running a trade union. Both full-time officers and rank and file leaders can profit greatly by learning more of the techniques and skills needed by labor representatives today. New leadership must constantly be developed and then trained and educated so that they become skilled representatives.

We propose to establish a division of our union which will help our locals compile the statistical material necessary to the competent functioning of a trade union. Thus we will be helping our locals to establish closer lines of communications for the interchange of wage rates, working conditions and other collective bargaining data. We will encourage the local unions to establish similar divisions within their own framework. We propose to guide them and advise them. Through the medium of such an interchange of information, we hope our International Union will be able to make available to the various local unions a fund of information which would be unavailable otherwise. Thus we plan to develop a comprehensive, coordinated line of communications throughout our entire International which will immeasurably increase the efficiency of our local unions in their bargaining and servicing activities.

### **Newspaper must fill the needs of new organization**

Our International publication in the past has been severely handicapped by the lack of funds and has been of necessity limited in its scope and its effectiveness. But this is a new day, and our newspaper must reflect the new spirit and fill the needs of this new organization. We need a good newspaper in order that the unity we have forged at this Convention may be more fully understood by all our members. We feel that our newspaper should be issued as often as possible and, therefore, if feasible, we will begin to publish our newspaper on a semi-monthly basis.

Our newspaper is the direct and immediate line of communication between our International and the membership. This publication, since it is mailed to the member's home, is read





Pent-up energy of delegates found release in election demonstration.



Despite gay headgear, PJN delegates followed proceedings intently.

## Union in the United States ..."



Comical hats, popular in Atlantic City, found favor with delegates.



Motto on wall was borne out by united Convention of RWDSU.



not only by the member himself but by his family. Thus it gives us the closest kind of contact and a medium through which important information is transmitted to each member and his family.

### Newspaper is a mirror which reflects face of the RWDSU

Nor are the lines of communication established by our newspaper confined to our own ranks—for our publication is sent out to many other organizations and individuals, to libraries, to Congressmen, to other labor organizations, to public officials, and to prominent individuals in all walks of life. Our newspaper is a mirror which reflects the face of our International for the whole world to see.

Since our publication will be so closely related to the day-to-day work of the locals, obviously its success will depend in great measure upon the cooperation we receive from our locals. I urge that all delegates upon your return to your homes will undertake to carry out your responsibility. Help us make our newspaper as good as it should be—as good as you want it to be—as good as it must be.

What I have just outlined is necessarily broad in nature but I think quite realistic. Now it is time to see what the future holds in store for us. I intend to make no rash promises about launching immediately a giant organizational drive in our jurisdiction. Our immediate job is to put our newly built house in order—to make the International Union and its locals a smoothly functioning and hard-hitting machine that has the resources and the willingness to get off center and on with the job of organizing the unorganized.

It is to this objective that all our efforts, all our abilities and all our enthusiasm will be directed. The International Union will coordinate and give direction to the organizing activities of our locals, but it cannot be and should not be the single channel through which organizational work is carried on. That is properly the role of the locals. Large local or small local—every local in the RWDSU can make its contribution to the sum total of newly organized workers.

We have learned through the years that no International Union can live without constant

organizational activity. There are whole areas in the country that have not as yet been touched. Various branches of our industry present potential areas of organization where we already have established beach-heads in the form of strong, well-entrenched locals.

The standards and conditions which our locals have won for their members—the higher wages, shorter hours, job security, pension and welfare programs—all these are not merely talking points to be used in an organizing campaign. They represent the product of years of struggle and sacrifice. But they are constantly endangered by the continued existence of a large number of unorganized workers. If we fail to measure up to our responsibility of organizing the unorganized, we will be gambling everything we have fought for. And that is a gamble that we can not afford to take. In this vital activity we can take encouragement from the fact that the CIO has pledged its aid and cooperation to the RWDSU. We propose to take full advantage of that pledge. In consultation with CIO leaders, and backed by the enormous resources of our parent organization, we can and we will build a stronger RWDSU within the framework of a stronger CIO.

### Fine local headquarters 'organizational homes'

As our organizing efforts grow and strong local unions are established, I can envision the establishment of local headquarters that will provide not only an operational base but an organizational home for the membership. Fine union headquarters—whether they are rented, leased or owned outright by the union—represent more than merely offices from which the union conducts its business. They should be and will be visible evidence that our union is here to stay, that the solidity and permanence of the steel and bricks that constitute the union headquarters are a symbol of the solidity and permanence of the union organization. Yes, let our local unions have homes that are a source of pride for our members and will command respect from the employers with whom we deal.

I firmly believe that the things I have discussed can be accomplished, and I pledge to you all my efforts to see to it that they are accomplished.

The road that lies ahead of us is not an easy

one. The duties and responsibilities are numerous. But the rewards are worth all the effort.

I hope that as an organization we will never be afraid to take chances—to risk much in the hope of gaining much. May it never be said of us that we turned our backs on an opportunity to build our union or to gain new benefits for our members.

### A challenge that calls for the best that is in us

Today we are faced with a challenge that will call forth the very best that is in us; that will demand of us that we turn away from the past and look toward the future, and that we recognize our differences and weigh against them the things that unite us. I am confident that each of you here today is prepared to accept that challenge and to devote himself unstintingly to our common aims and purposes.

For my own part, I am humbly grateful for the great opportunity that has been granted to me to lead you forward into a bright new future. I owe a great debt to all those who have helped make it possible, and first and foremost to our late beloved leader, Irving M. Simon, whose untimely death put an end to his unremitting efforts to stabilize and rebuild the organization he had been called upon to lead. He succeeded in that task far better than any of us could have expected when he took it over. His handiwork is shown here today in this great hall—the realization of his dreams and his aspirations. I hope that somewhere and somehow Irving Simon knows what has happened and knows too that his long struggle was not in vain.

To all others—my fellow officers of the Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Union, the officers of the Distributive, Processing & Office Workers of America, and the officers of the Playthings, Jewelry & Novelty Workers International Union, to the loyal and devoted staffs of these organizations, and to each of you, the delegates of this Seventh Convention of the RWDSU, my profound thanks and sincere appreciation.

I hope I may prove worthy to lead you in this great undertaking. I can only tell you that heart and soul I want to do my very best, and with your continued support we will succeed in writing a great new chapter in the history of the American labor movement.

## "...a new chapter in labor history"



Tumultuous applause followed conclusion of President's Address by Max Greenberg, which set tone for entire Convention.



## 1,000 Covered By New Pact

# Plastics Co. Drops Wage Cut Demand

FITCHBURG, Mass. — One thousand members of Local 61, Fitchburg and Local 66, Nashua, N. H., scored a victory May 19 when new contracts with their employers were signed.

The agreements, covering employees of

Great American Plastics and Nashua Plastics, provide improved grievance procedures and daily computation of piece work rates.

While no overall wage increase was provided in the new pact, the settlement nevertheless represents a success for the workers, it was reported by Tom Leone, New England Director of the former Playthings, Jewelry & Novelty Workers Union, and Int'l. Rep. Robert Rondeau.

Management of the two plants, which are both owned by the same firm, earlier had demanded a wage cut of 7½¢ per hour, plus twenty-two other counter proposals. These would have taken away gains won by the plastics workers in a three week strike last year, which included a 5¢ wage increase, piece-work rate improvements and liberalized vacations. In the settlement, the company withdrew all its earlier demands.

Participating in the negotiations, along with the union officials were: for Local 66, Mrs. Lillian Gagne, president, plus Mrs. Florence Contsinikas, Helen Tracy, Irene McLouis, Robert Barbour, Henry O'Neill, Irene Descoteau and Thelma Kemienicki; for Local 61, Mrs. Virginia Drinkwine, chief steward, as well as David Curtis, Pat Lothrop, Louise Cantanzi and Kathleen Fisher.

members in affiliated locals, which range from \$60 to \$70 a week. In the more skilled operations, it was pointed out, minimums run to \$85. In all branches of the industry paid holidays and vacations are universally established, it was reported, and in nearly all affiliated locals, health and welfare plans are in effect, providing, through employer contributions, hospitalization and surgical benefits and in some, optical services for members.

## Drive Planned On Orthopedic Shoe Industry

ATLANTIC CITY—A special session of the Shoe Service Division Executive Board held May 23 just before the RWDSU Convention, projected an organizing drive as the best means of overcoming present trends in the use of shoe rebuilding materials which result in serious loss of jobs in many sections.

The Board authorized Division Pres. G. D. Procopio to aid in the drive, which is to be concentrated in the orthopedic field, manufacturing artificial limbs and other such appliances. Plans also include the organization of self-employed shoe rebuilders.

In order to help meet the cost of this program the Executive Board decided to increase weekly per capita payments of affiliated locals from the present 20 cents to 25 cents. It was pointed out that an increase was needed not only for planned organizing expenses of the Shoe Service Division, but also to meet the new 75-cent monthly per capita due the International Union.

The Board session also reviewed accomplishments of the Division, as reported by Pres. Procopio. Among these are the minimum wages enjoyed by



Plaque is presented veteran George Braverman (rt.) RWDSU vice-president and general organizer of Local 262, for 25 years service to labor. L. to r., Anthony Auriema, Congressman Addonizio, Frank McGovern, Braverman.

## George Braverman Acclaimed For 25 Years of Leadership

NEWARK, N. J.—George Braverman, RWDSU vice-president and general organizer of Local 262, was honored for 25 years of service to labor at a testimonial dinner May 15.

Among those who paid tribute to Braverman before a jam-packed audience of members and friends of Local 262 were: Pres. Max Greenberg, Ralph A. Villani, former Mayor of Newark; Joseph Benucci, administrative assistant to Congressman Rodino; Congressman Addonizio; Anthony Giuliano, judge of Municipal Court, Newark; Leroy Dalois, former police magistrate; and Frederick C. Mueller of the C. F. Mueller Company.

Pres. Greenberg praised Braverman for his "solid accomplishments in behalf of Local 262 and our own International." Toastmaster for the occasion was Anthony Auriema, president of Local 262, who extolled the contributions made by Braverman during his years of leadership

in that organization.

Serving on the arrangements committee were Theodore DeNorscio, Frank McGovern, John Gialimis and Fred Henninger as well as the other members of the Executive Board of Local 262.

Among those present were: Ross Cameron, vice president of Charms Candy Co.; Emil Oxfeld of the firm of Rothbard, Harris and Oxfeld, attorney for Local 262; Ray Sontoro and John Brady, labor-supported candidates for the office of Councilman in the Newark Council, as well as many leaders of the RWDSU and other trade unions in the metropolitan area.

# 1000 Win New Lerner Pact

By RENEE COHEN

DISTRICT 65 (NY)—After weeks of negotiations a settlement was reached between District 65 and management of the 1,000-worker Lerner apparel chain warehouse and office. The entire steward body participated in the contract renewal talks, which were led by Pres. David Livingston and Organization Dir. Bill Michelson.

When no offers were forthcoming from the company after several weeks, the Lerner workers began preparations for arbitration. The contract provided for a reopening on wages only, but meetings with management laid the groundwork for the discussion of issues other than wages.

Negotiating committee members described Pres. Livingston's handling of the negotiations as "brilliant," bringing agreement from the company on improvements in hours, sick leave, inequities and a contract extension, as well as wage increases.

Terms of the settlement include wage increases of \$1.50 and \$2. The company was prepared to give only \$1.50, but was convinced that at least \$2 should be given to employees in categories involving heavy work and work of a supervisory nature.

The contract provides for a 37½ hour week during June, July and August, and the biggest problem the committee faced was to get the reduction of hours applied in the evening and not in the morning. The company said business problems prevented them from shortening hours in the evening. However, after the committee insisted that there would be no settlement without this provision, the firm agreed.

Improved sick leave represents the long-awaited establishment of full days of sick leave in place of the present practice of half days. The new provision makes sick leave cumulative from the date of employment to the extent an individual has unused sick leave, and a worker may now take 10 full days after five years

of employment.

A large turnout of the Lerner workers at the '65' Center June 2 unanimously ratified the settlement as representing great progress by the shop.

The contract, scheduled to expire in February 1955, was extended to 1957 with annual reopeners.



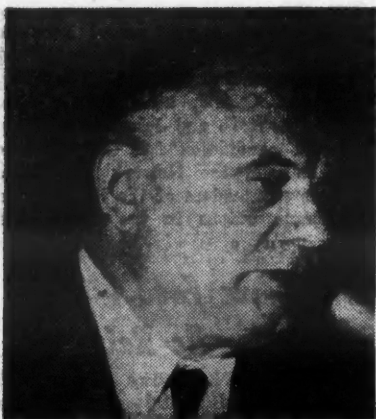
BANQUET IN ROCHESTER marked 17th Anniversary of Shoe Service Local 1163 May 8 at Seneca Hotel, Rochester, N. Y. Guest speakers were G. D. Procopio, Shoe Service Div. Pres. Charles Aloisio, Local 1191 Mgr.; John Strobel, CIO Western N. Y. Reg. Dir.; William Scully, '1163' attorney; Anthony Caracciolo, '1163' Pres.; and Joseph Gigliotti. Frank Parlato was Toastmaster.



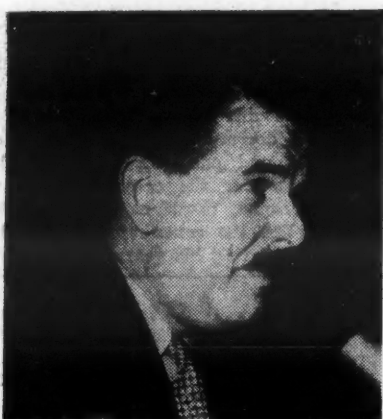
## CONVENTION HI-LITES



**Election Hi-Jinks** were topped off by parading, happily shouting delegates, who shook rattles, blew horns, threw paper streamers and confetti, celebrating election of leaders of new, big RWDSU.



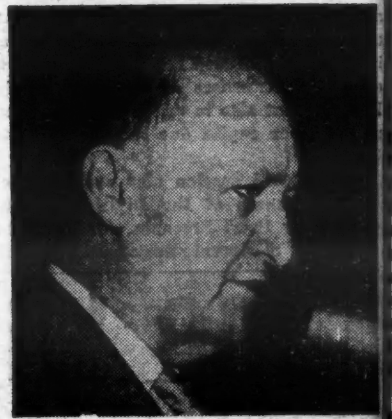
**LOUIS HOLLANDER**  
Pres., N. Y. State CIO



**DR. MASON GROSS**  
Chairman, N. J. State Board of Mediation



**R. J. THOMAS**  
Asst. to Exec. Vice-Pres., CIO



**JOHN V. RIFFE**  
Exec. Vice-Pres., CIO

### Notables Addressed Convention,

Convention of RWDSU was honored by addresses of several distinguished speakers, including the four pictured above. Among guest speakers not shown on this page were Herbert Hill, NAACP Labor Relations Director; Mike Mann, New York-New Jersey CIO Regional Director, and Paul Krebs, Pres., N. J. State CIO.

**His Honor,** N.J. Governor Robert Meyner, center, chats with RWDSU leaders on Convention platform after knocking delegates in the aisles with string of anecdotes that prefaced call for increased political action by labor. Left to right: Exec. Vice-Pres. Alex Bail, Pres. Greenberg, Vice-Pres. George Braverman, Gov. Meyner, Exec. Vice-Pres. Arthur Osman, Joseph Schlossberg of American Council for Histadrut, Frank Smith of N. J. Local 570.



Publication of RWDSU



## Pillsbury Mills Cases Sent To Arbitration

HAMILTON, O. — Local 160, whose members work in the Pillsbury Mills plant, is awaiting a date for arbitration of two grievances involving unfair discharges of two leaders in the plant, one a steward and the other an assistant steward, Business Agent Juanita Clark reported.

A representative of the Federal Conciliation Service is scheduled to hear the cases of Steward Neal Maples and Ass't Steward George Young, both of whom were discharged for what the company called absenteeism.

The case of Maples was further complicated by an unsuccessful company attempt to prejudice the workers in the plant against him, Miss Clark said. Management used a foreman to try to get the workers to sign a petition saying they wanted to see Maples fired.

### 'Clearly Just Cause'

The Union's position in both cases is that the two men were absent through no fault of their own and with clearly just cause.

Meanwhile, an overwhelming turnout of the 350 Pillsbury workers at a membership meeting nominated officers in preparation for balloting next month.

The nominees for president are Clyde Congleton, current head of Local 160, and Burman York; Orville Reed for vice-president; Edna Lynch, incumbent, for financial secretary, and incumbent Jean Jordan and Nancy Wilmer for the post of recording secretary.

A contest around the three trustee posts involves the three incumbents, Elsie Norton, Herman Carpenter and Otto McDaniels, in addition to Rayfield Case, Jim Turner, Robert Helfery, Mary Reasch and William Hall. Richard Turner is running unopposed for Sergeant-at-Arms and incumbent Mary Amos has been named for the chief steward's post, while alternate chief steward is being contested by incumbent Clyde Wilder and Boyd Amburgy.

Business Agent Juanita Clark is running for that office with no opposition.

## Demands Set at Marx Toy Co., Piqua Products

GLENDAL, W. Va. — Preparations are well under way in Local 149 for negotiations with the Louis Marx Co. on a new contract to replace the current pact, due to expire July 1, Int'l Rep. Charles Hess reported.

The company has been presented with a list of demands, headed by a 10 cents an hour wage increase, and the first conference is scheduled to be held June 16. The company, which employs 1,000 workers, is the world's largest manufacturer of plastic and metal toys.

Elsewhere in this region, at Martin's Perry, Ohio, unfair labor practice charges were filed against Piqua Products Co., a toy manufacturing firm employing over 100 members of Local 250, Hess said.

The company is charged with permitting an individual to circulate anti-union petitions in the plant during working hours.

Meanwhile, the workers are preparing for negotiations on a new agreement, and have submitted demands for improvements in the contract.

# Major Gains Scored in U.S. Playing Card Pact

CINCINNATI, O. — One thousand employees of the U. S. Playing Card Co., largest manufacturer of playing cards in the world, won a new contract last month, providing general wage increases of five cents an hour plus several other gains. Another contract settlement, reported by Int'l Rep. Charles Hess, was at Institutional Industries, a plant employing 80 workers in the manufacture of medical and surgical appliances. Among other important improvements, wage hikes of four cents an hour were won.



FROM CHICAGO came this group of RWDSU delegates to Convention in Atlantic City. They're shown with Pres. Max Greenberg (4th from rt.), Exec. Vice-Pres. Al Heaps, Chi. Jt. Bd. Pres. Hank Anderson and Int'l Rep. Carl Sanzone.

The new U. S. Playing Card pact provides, in addition to wage raises, that increases accumulated under the previous cost-of-living clauses be permanently incorporated into the base rates. Wage hikes under the cost of living ranged from 16 to 29 cents an hour.

Still another gain in this agreement is a clause protecting the workers against possible loss of wages or jobs due to installation of new methods or machinery. This was termed a pioneer step in the industry. The clause provides an extended trial period for any new device, during which the workers may examine its effects on their conditions and earnings.

### Committee Leaders

Leading the negotiating committee were Local 256 Pres. Bill Martin and the other officers of the local, including Vice-Pres. John Sink, Fin. Sec. James Wolfram and Rec. Sec. Grace Foster.

Int'l Rep. Hess commented that the Union and the company enjoyed friendly relations throughout and after the two-month negotiations.

The settlement won at Institutional Industries came only after strike preparations had been made and a strike vote taken, Hess said. On the heels of these actions by the workers, the company doubled its previous offer of two cents.

Additional gains consist of restrictions on the type of work that supervisory personnel may perform, plus improvements in grievance procedure and seniority. In the latter, a former practice permitted loss of seniority of a worker if he were on a lay-off for more than four months. The new provision extends that period to six months.

The negotiating committee of Local 258 was led by Hess and Pres. Sam Stacy, and included Vice-Pres. Frank Uphus, Rec. Sec. John Case and Chief Steward Louis Roberts.

## Raises in New Contracts at United Dairy, Moore Stores

COLUMBUS, O. — Several contract settlements headed the list of organizational activities in this region last month, including contracts at United Dairy Co. in Wheeling and Wellsburg, West Virginia, and the Moore's Stores warehouse in Newark, O., Int'l Rep. Jerry Hughes reported.

Progress was also reported in new organization in Local 21, where some 50 Ohio Valley Baking Co. workers in Middleport, O., were voting in an NLRB consent election June 2, as this issue went to press.

In Local 379, too, a campaign to sign up the production and maintenance workers in Borden's Zanesville plant was climaxed at a special meeting of these workers when a majority signed Local 379 membership cards. The selling force has been in Local 379 for some years. Its members, led by Chairman Russell Hall, played a key role in signing up the plant personnel.

### Charges Levelled

Elsewhere in this midwest area Hughes reported the filing of unfair labor practice charges by Local 612, against the Grocers' Wholesale Co. of Huntington, W. Va., for refusal to bargain in good faith after a seven-month strike. Another petition filed against this same company charges that it fired 40 workers for union activity and calls for their reinstatement.

The contract renewal won at United Dairy, in the face of a milk price war in the area, provides wage increases to all plant employees, as well as improvements in working conditions among the salesmen.

In the Moore settlement, wage increases averaged nine cents an hour, plus an annual bonus based on company profits and hours worked. The increases, won on the basis of adjustments in job classifications, range from five to thirty cents an hour. In addition, holiday and grievance procedure improvements were won.

Int'l Rep. Edgar Johnson reported a

contract settlement at the Levi Furniture Store in Portsmouth, O., where the employees won wage increases of 14 cents an hour plus other gains, including time and a half pay for work after 44 hours.

## Del Monte Stalls on Pact; Local's Strike Fund Grows

ROCHELLE, Ill. — Strike preparations are under way among the workers at the Del Monte plants in this tri-city area, as the company continues to maintain the same "no offer" stand it took since the start of negotiations in March, it was reported by Local 17 Pres. Ed Mear.

Large numbers of the Del Monte people are now setting aside substantial amounts weekly in a joint strike fund in case a walkout becomes necessary, and the number of members participating in the weekly strike fund deposits is growing. The drawn-out sessions so far have resulted only in company agreements to renew the contract "as is."

This position on the part of the company was overwhelmingly rejected at a series of plant gate meetings at all four plants in Rochelle, Mendota and DeKalb, it was reported. The last two conferences with the company have been attended by a representative of the Federal Conciliation Service.

The fruits of affiliation with RWDSU and the resulting formation of one great new union have become singularly evident in this situation, Mear pointed out. While

the company has been using as one of its main reasons for no offer the claim that it has granted no increases in any of its plants elsewhere, it was learned from representatives of an RWDSU local in a large Del Monte plant in New Jersey that they had won a wage increase in recent contract negotiations.

The 200 Rochelle workers are seeking wage increases of 15 cents an hour.

### 7c Raise at Sexton

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — The 100 workers of Local 29 at the John Sexton Co. grocery plant settled their contract renewal a month before it was due to expire, Int'l Rep. Al Evanoff reported. The new agreement provides, among other gains, across-the-board wage increases of seven cents an hour.



## The Midwest

### Gains Scored at Two Chicago Candy Plants

CHICAGO—Two agreements negotiated in May by Bakery & Confectionery Local 15 netted substantial gains for 160 members employed in both plants, it was reported by Vice-Pres. Hank Anderson, president of the Chicago Joint Board, and Int'l Rep. Carl Sanzone.

A three-cents-per-hour general wage increase was won at Crystal Pure Candy Co. in negotiations concluded May 18. The increase was made retroactive to last Jan. 1, the contract re-opening date.

#### Union Negotiators

William Green and Fred Shaw served on the negotiating committee, aided by Anderson and Sanzone.

At Close Candy Co., 80 employees gained a comprehensive insurance and welfare program as a result of the pact which was signed May 1.

Benefits gained include: \$1,000 life insurance, with double indemnity for accidental death or dismemberment; \$20 per week sickness and disability benefit; \$15 per day hospital benefit; and \$150 medical-surgical benefit.

Negotiators for the union were: Anderson, Sanzone, Tony De Sario, Mary Lynch and Louis Guido.

### Louis Abruzzi Dies

Members of Local 15 and especially those employed at Close Candy were saddened last month by news of the death of Louis Abruzzi, vice-president of the local. He passed away early in May after 18 months of illness, leaving a wife and two children.

Brother Abruzzi had been an active member and leader in the local for many years prior to his last illness. Condolences to the family were expressed by his fellow employees and by officers of the local and the Chicago Joint Board.

### Summer Sports Program Mapped By Chi Local

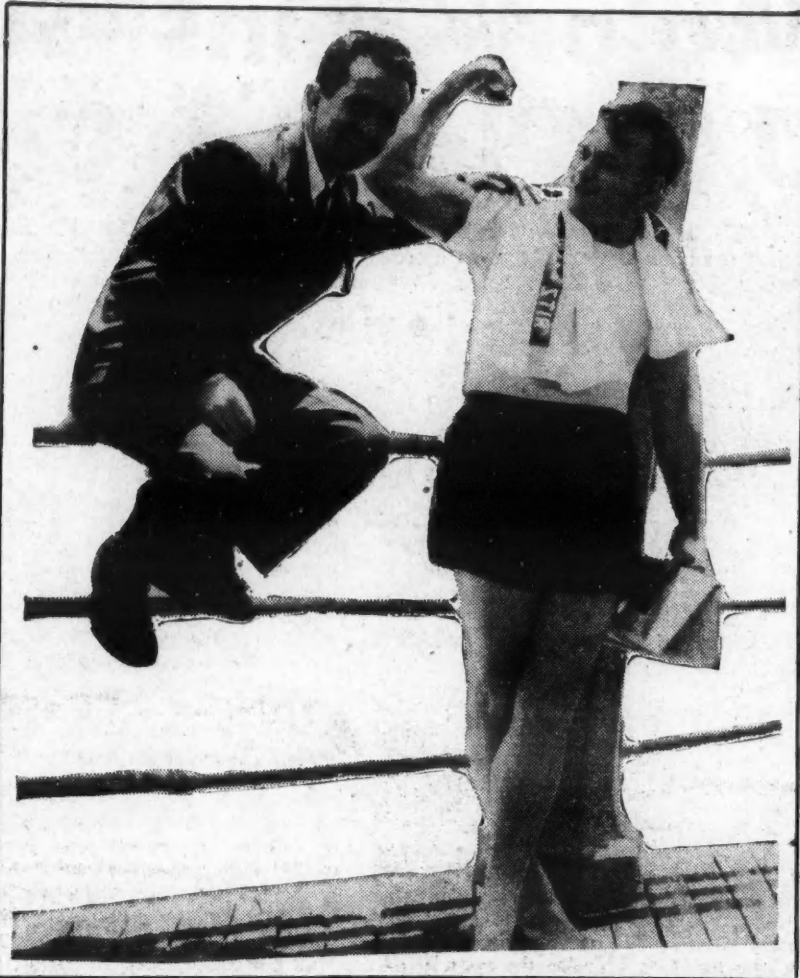
CHICAGO, Ill.—The summer sports program of Local 194 is well under way, with the entry of last year's '194' Softball League champions into a major city industrial league opposing such teams as Continental Can Co., Real Lemon Co. and a number of large trucking companies, Int'l Rep. Al Evanoff reported.

Captained by Stan Pawlak of the Campbell's Soup can plant, the '194' varsity softballers will begin competition this month, playing Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week in McKinley Park. The park is located at Western & Archer Avenues.

The '194' Sports Committee is also going to make basketball play possible in the Union's beautiful new headquarters this coming fall. The floor of the main auditorium has already been laid out and equipment has been priced.

In order to raise the necessary funds for purchase of equipment the Committee is planning a pre-vacation dance for Saturday, June 26, plus another affair to be held after the vacation and tomato season.

Evanoff said this is the first time that sports activities have been undertaken with such enthusiasm and the involvement of a large number of members in planning and execution.



### Cavorting at the Convention

HARDY SOUL of Convention stay in Atlantic City was District 65 Vice-Pres. Bob Burke, believed to be only delegate to dare the ocean waves in rather chilly weather. Feeling the mighty Burke muscle is John Galacher of Local 194 in Chicago.



TWO BARITONES and a kibitzer are (l. to r.) Exec. Vice-Pres. Al Heaps, Int'l Rep. Carl Sanzone, and Vice-Pres. Sam Lowenthal. Heaps and Sanzone led delegates in "Roll the Union On," while Lowenthal heckled.



IMPROMPTU GLEE CLUB formed at cocktail party and buffet dinner sponsored by New Jersey delegates. The powerful notes emoted appear to have chased all the women away. That's Vice-Pres. Hank Anderson, of Chicago, at right, in good humor.



## W. T. Grant Strike in Ala. Solid in Third Month

GADSDEN, Ala.—The strike of W. T. Grant's store clerks went into its third month with the members of the RWDSU, supported by locals



Canadian delegation to RWDSU Convention gave up funds set aside for party to aid strikers in Gadsden Ala., and Port Arthur, Tex. Pres. Greenberg accepts money from Canadians led by Dir. T. B. MacLachlan.

of the CIO Rubber, Steel and Textile Unions, maintaining solid ranks and unwavering in their determination to win the drawn-out struggle.

## Raise Settles Pact At Buckeye Plant In Selma, Ala.

SELMA, Ala.—The 60 workers at Buckeye Cotton Oil, members of Local 114, won a renewal of their contract several weeks before it was due to expire, Int'l Rep. Harry Bush reported. The settlement provides for general wage increases of two and a half cents an hour, plus a hospitalization plan for the first time in this plant.

The wage increase, which brings hiring minimums to 80 cents an hour, is retroactive to May 10. The renewed pact is to run until June 1956, with a wage re-opener in June 1955.

The newly won hospitalization plan will be provided by payments of equal shares by the company and the workers to Blue Cross.

Members of the negotiating committee, led by Local 114 Pres. Britt Huntington, included Henry Lawson, William Goldsby, Coleman Jones, Cornelius Johnson and Jenkin White.

The strike started as a result of unfair labor practices on the part of the company. The Grant management used every trick in the book, according to RWDSU Vice-Pres. Frank Parker, who is directing the walkout, in an effort to smash the RWDSU's organizational drive in the chain in Alabama.

The union has already been vindicated in one of these charges when the NLRB ordered W. T. Grant to pay back wages to one of the employees who had taken an active lead in organizing the store. Other charges are still pending before the Board and a decision on them is expected shortly.

The Board also has before it a charge that W. T. Grant has refused to bargain in good faith and this, too, will be acted on shortly.

The RWDSU Convention in Atlantic City, after hearing a report on the strike by Parker on May 27, voted unanimously to back the strike with full support to the Grant employees. Canadian delegates made their contribution in cash before the Convention ended. (See cut.)

## PAC Pays Off in Alabama

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—RWDSU locals in Alabama played an active role in CIO-PAC's successful campaign to nominate John Sparkman as Senator and James E. Folsom as Governor. Both Sparkman and Folsom, primarily as a result of CIO-PAC, won by decisive margins despite opposition from candidates supported by the reactionary oil and utility interests in the state.

In addition to these victories, a complete slate of CIO-backed candidates for nearly every other state office as well as most county and local posts, was voted in. According to Frank Parker, RWDSU vice president who coordinated PAC activities for the locals in Alabama, "This solid victory is our best hope that the vicious, so-called 'right-to-work' law will be removed from the statute books."

Parker pointed out that members of the RWDSU not only contributed to PAC but they also helped to register and qualify voters, gave out literature and educational material on the issues of the campaign, rang door bells and tacked up placards. "We are proud of the work our people have done," he stated, "and we intend to keep up the good work."

## Va. Election Sweep In New Plant, 56-4

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—In an important organizational victory in the South, the workers in the Chesapeake Bay Frosty Foods Co. voted 56-4 for Local 27 in an NLRB election May 21, Int'l Rep. Henry Hamilton reported.

The plant, whose employees actually signed up in the DPOWA over six months ago, processes and packs sea food and employs up to 100 workers in season, Hamilton said.

He pointed out that in spite of the delay between the time the workers signed up and the NLRB election, the Chesapeake people remained solid in Local 27. They carried out a program of weekly membership meetings, attended consistently by more than 80 per cent of the 68 workers; they helped organize the regular Local 27 Friday night socials and redecorated the growing Local 27 headquarters by building furniture and bulletin boards, making draperies and curtains.

The workers' demands, which were all ready for presentation in December, call for minimums of 80c an hour for the women, who comprise a majority of the employees, and \$1 an hour for the men. Women now earn 50 cents an hour, while male workers get 70 to 80 cents. Lead men, who do the heavier work, are demanding \$1.15 an hour. They presently earn 85 to 90 cents.

A second key demand is coverage under the '65' Security Plan through employer payments of 3 1/2% of the payroll. Winning this demand means coverage for members and their families for hospitalization and surgical costs, maternity benefits, \$1,000 life insurance for the member, and sick benefits up to two-thirds of a member's weekly earnings while he is out sick.

Other demands consist of paid holidays and vacations, neither of which the workers now enjoy, and call-in pay, besides seniority, grievance machinery and other union conditions.

Hamilton paid tribute to shop steward Ernest Craig, "whose ceaseless work in

holding the shop together resulted in winning the election." Among the leading women in the Chesapeake organizing drive, Hamilton singled out Virginia Pringle, Gladys Green, LaVonnna Cannon, Ernestine Hines and Lela Wheeler. Ernestine Hines was recently elected to the post of recording secretary of Local 27.

## Borden Co. Pact Provides 5c Rise

ATLANTA—Negotiations for a one-year renewal of the union agreement with the Borden Company's biscuit plant were completed on May 11. The contract was negotiated by Area Dir. John J. Schuster, assisted by Shop Stewards Margaret Lamb and Georgia Clure.

The new pact provides:

- A general 5c-an-hour increase on all wage rates, retroactive to May 1.

- Two ten-minute rest periods per day, one during each shift. Hitherto the company when operating on a two-shift basis would split the eight hours into five and three, thereby depriving the employees of a rest period on the three-hour turn. The union took this matter to arbitration last year and lost.

The plant is one of three, and the only one that is organized. The other two are in Dallas, Tex. and Los Angeles, Calif.

This plant employs approximately 70 employees on one-shift operation and 105 on two-shift operation. It is part of the Lakeshire Marty Division which also processes cheese and cheese products.

## 600 in Birmingham Bakeries Seek 5-Day, 40-Hour Week

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—More than 600 members of Local 441, through a 20-member negotiating committee headed by RWDSU Vice-Pres. Frank Parker, are demanding the 5-day, 40-hour week, dues check-off and a substantial wage increase in a new master agreement with the four leading bakeries in this city. The companies are Ward Baking Co., National Biscuit Co., McGough Baking Co. and the

American Bakery Co.

Other demands include establishment of an employer-contributed health and welfare plan, sick leave with pay and improved vacation and holiday benefits.

Parker pointed out that the master contract in Birmingham will set the pattern for the demands of Local 453 in Gadsden and Local 405 in Tuscaloosa, whose contracts will expire before July 1.



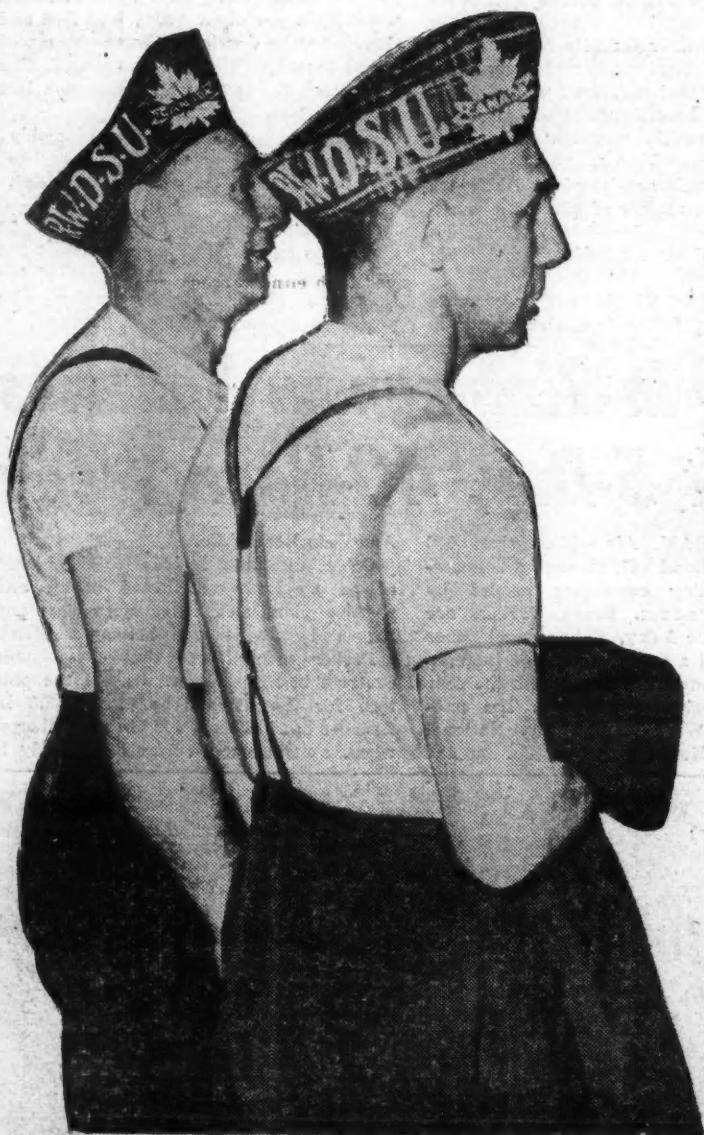
AMERICAN TOBACCO CO. Crew Stewards shown above are newly elected leaders in Local 15, Charleston, S.C. L. to r.: Hazel Martin, Delphena Smith, Kathleen Norris and Peggy Murray.



# Canada's Colorful Contingent



**Family Portrait** of brother and sister RWDSUers from Canada pictures Canadian delegates to Convention and, at podium, l. to r., Canadian director Thomas MacLachlan, RWDSU Pres. Greenberg and Sec.-Treas. Kyne. Canadians made an outstanding impression throughout Convention's four days. RWDSU Canadian membership is one of most far-flung of any union in the world, extending across width of continent from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. Some Canadian delegates traveled 8,000 miles round-trip to attend Convention.



**Canada Songsters** led Convention in singing of "O Canada" and "The Maple Leaf Forever." Two delegates shown above were caught by camera during singing of anthem. Canadians earned admiration for their group singing, whose harmony bespoke lots of practice together.



**Good Fit** on Pres. Greenberg, l., is Canadian RWDSU tee shirt, emblazoned with a "Mountie," symbol of rugged Canada. Looking on are Canadian Dir. Tom MacLachlan who presented shirt, center, and RWDSU Sec.-Treas. Martin Kyne.

Publication of RWDSU



## On the Dairy Front In Ontario

**St. Catharines:** Mason's Dairy was recently certified by the Ontario Labour Relations Board after a vote of the employees choosing the Retail, Wholesale Dairy Workers Local 440 as their bargaining agent.

The company tried every means to break the Union, hiring a lawyer who attempted to establish a company association. A meeting was called which backfired and placed the Union in a very strong position. When the company did not negotiate in good faith, the members refused to work one morning until the company sat down and negotiated.

After three days of negotiations an agreement was finalized and signed with the following results:

- Union Security—compulsory check-off of Union dues.
- Statutory holidays—8 statutory holidays at double time.
- Vacations—one week's vacation with pay after one year's service; two after two years; three after 15 years.
- Five-day, 40-hour work week; time and one half for overtime.
- Wage increase of \$6 to \$8 per week for all employees.
- Social Security—company paying the full cost of life insurance, sick and accident policy, plus part of the hospitalization.

The Union committee includes brothers Al Brady, E. Hunter, R. Slingerland, assisted by G. Barlow, Int'l Rep. Brother G. Ramsbottom, Executive Board member, assisted in the organization of this group and his advice and assistance during negotiations was greatly appreciated by the members.

**St. Catharines:** An agreement was reached between Silverwood Dairies Ltd., St. Catharines, and Retail, Wholesale Dairy Workers Local 440, with the following results:

Wage increases from \$3 to \$4 per week; statutory holidays increased to eight at double time; sick pay plan where the company pays for the first three days at full pay in any sickness, sick and accident policy pays as from fourth day; bereavement pay for three days and other minor adjustments.

The Union committee was composed of G. Ramsbottom, W. McCormick, R. Dahmer, assisted by G. Barlow, Int'l Rep.

**St. Catharines:** An agreement was reached between Sunshine Dairy and the Retail, Wholesale Dairy Workers Union, Local 440, with the following results:

A group insurance plan covering all employees and their families, the company

paying the full cost; life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment, \$2,000; weekly indemnity, \$35 per week; daily hospital benefit, \$8 per day; special hospital services, \$160; surgical benefits up to \$300; doctor's calls—payment for all doctor calls from first call, home office or hospital; X-Rays—up to \$25; sick leave—four days with full pay per year, with the company agreeing to pay any days lost due to sickness or accident not covered by sick pay plan or the sick and accident policy at the rate of the weekly indemnity; vacations—three weeks after ten years' service.

The Union committee was composed of A. Holmes, H. Degraw and R. Homer assisted by G. Barlow, Int'l Rep.

**Woodstock:** An agreement was reached between Maple Dairy, Woodstock, and the Retail, Wholesale Dairy Workers Union, Local 440, with increased wages, sick pay and other adjustments. Union committee—E. Donsberry, W. Stevenson and F. Cook, assisted by G. Barlow, Int'l Rep.

**Kitchener:** An agreement was reached between Silverwood Dairies Ltd., Kitchener, and Retail, Wholesale Dairy Workers Local 440, with the following results:

Union Security—modified Rand formula with compulsory check-off of Union dues on all employees in the bargaining unit; sick pay, bereavement pay, 8 statutory holidays at double time, plus wage increases from \$3 to \$9 per week.

The Union committee headed by J. Amey, chairman, was assisted by G. Barlow, Int'l Rep.

**Toronto:** An agreement was reached between Silverwood Dairies Ltd., Toronto, and the Retail, Wholesale and Store Union Office Employees Local 598, which gave increases from \$3 to \$8 per week, improved sick pay plan, plus other improvements in the contract. Union committee—G. Legge, D. Patey, J. Davies, assisted by G. Barlow, Int'l Rep.

**Peterboro:** An agreement was reached between Silverwood Dairies Ltd., Peterboro, and the Retail, Wholesale Dairy Workers Union Local 440, with the following results: Union Security—modified Rand formula, with compulsory check-off of Union dues on all employees in the bargaining unit; statutory holidays increased to eight at double time, sick pay, bereavement pay and wage increases from \$3 to \$9 per week, with the salesmen's minimum guarantee raised to \$59 per week. Union committee—J. Tracey, P. Rody, T. Birch and G. Laine, assisted by G. Barlow, Int'l Rep.

## Large Increases Secured At Cave & Co. in Ontario

VANCOUVER, B. C.—Negotiations for a renewal of contract with Cave & Co. have recently been concluded. Warehouse employees gained: 5½¢ per hour increase retroactive to Nov. 1, 1953; improved vacation plan providing for three week vacations after 15 years' service; rounding out of the Employee Benefit program by including in it a weekly indemnity plan providing for the payment of \$25 per week for 13 weeks in the event of sickness or accident. In addition, the employee is paid full salary by the company during the waiting period in connection with this plan.

The agreement covering office employees is practically identical with that

of the warehouse, with the exception of the hours of work which will be 37½ hours per week, Monday to Friday inclusive. Salary increases range from \$18.50 a month to a high of \$50 per month with the average being around \$35 a month. In addition, the employees will also enjoy automatic \$10 per month increases in salary effective April 1, with the agreement expiring on Oct. 31, 1954.

## New Dominion Store Votes RWDSU, 42-19

LONDON, Ont.—The Ontario Labour Relations Board has announced the results of a vote in Dominion Stores in this city. The vote was won by Local 414, 42 to 19. Four stores are covered in this city, completing organization of the major part of Dominion Stores Ltd. in the Province of Ontario by the RWDSU.

**Orillia:** A first contract has been concluded between Local 414 and York Trading, Orillia. This contract will give the York Trading employees increased wages, better vacation plan, overtime pay, grievance procedure, driver's meal allowances, modified Rand formula, and other gains.

## Safety Provisions in MacDonald's Pact

VANCOUVER, B. C.—A renewal of contract has been negotiated with MacDonald's Consolidated and Local 580, as follows: 5¢ an hour general increase for all employees retroactive to Oct. 5, 1953; improved vacation plan providing for three week vacations after 15 years' service; improved safety and health provisions which will now bring the first aid attendant under our jurisdiction; and at the same time improvements throughout the warehouse operation of various safety precautions which have been a problem in this shop.

## Local 461 Asks Vote At Toronto Bakery

TORONTO—Int'l Rep. Bill Styles, after six weeks of organizational work in Hunt's Bakery, Ltd., reports that an application for certification has been made to the Ontario Labour Relations Board by Local 461.

This plant, which was previously known as Hunt's Bakery Ltd. for many years, is now in the process of amalgamating with Woman's Bakery Ltd., Toronto, and will ultimately be known as Woman's-Hunts Bakery.

Local 461 have Woman's Bakery under contract and have had for several years.

**Oakville:** An application for certification has been applied for to the Ontario Labour Relations Board on behalf of the employees of Industrial Foods, who are employed in the Canteen of the Ford Motor Car Co. in Oakville.

**St. Catharines:** Dominion Stores Ltd., St. Catharines, formerly employed Township police as parking lot attendants at \$2 per hour. This matter was brought to the attention of Local 414 by the chairman of the Unemployed committee of the CIO, and the company was approached, through the director of Local 414. We are happy to report that the township police have been replaced as parking lot attendants by CIO members who are at present unemployed. They are receiving the \$2 per hour.

**Tillsonburg:** Negotiations between Borden's Mfg. plants at Tillsonburg, Blenheim, Ingersoll, Hickson, Listowel and Burford and the Retail, Wholesale Dairy Workers Local 440, have broken down and a conciliation board is now being set up.

## Highest Rates Won At Canada Safeway

VANCOUVER, B. C.—A new contract has just been concluded with Canada Safeway and Local 580, with the following provisions: 5¢ an hour general increase for all employees retroactive to Oct. 5, 1953; improved vacation plan providing for three week vacations after 15 years' service; improved safety and health provisions; all employees will now be supplied with either aprons, smocks or coveralls, depending on what particular type of job they may be performing.

This settlement will now give the Canada Safeway employees the highest rates in the warehousing industry in Western Canada.



NEWLY-ELECTED EXECUTIVE of Local 535, Vancouver, B.C., is shown above. Standing, left to right, Alex Jackson, Outside Guard; Gordie Hall, Financial Secretary; Joel Moss, Vice President. Seated, left to right: Mary Deguerin, Inside Guard; J. F. Mason, President; Dot Gree, Recording Sec'y.





"GUIDE US IN THESE DELIBERATIONS" was prayer offered on behalf of 850 delegates to RWDSU Convention by Right Rev. Monsignor Leo Higgins, in opening invocation. The Convention brought together three Unions during four day session, joining them in one strong CIO organization. Mgsr. Higgins urged that new RWDSU bend efforts to organize

unorganized workers throughout the land. L. to r. at platform table are: Vice-Pres. Milton Weisberg, Exec.-Sec. Jack Paley, Vice-Pres. David Livingston, Exec. Vice-Pres. Arthur Osman, Pres. Max Greenberg, Mgsr. Higgins, Exec. Vice-Pres. Alex Bail, Vice-Pres. Julius Sum, Vice-Pres. George Braverman, Education Dir. Abe Weiss, Sec.-Treas. Martin C. Kynes

## An Exciting Chapter In Labor History

**L**IKE participants in any historic event, the 850 delegates to the Seventh Convention of RWDSU were conscious of their role as an example of unity for the entire American labor movement. This was shown by the rapt attention they gave throughout the four-day sessions to the huge task of uniting into one effective trade union organization some 140,000 people of three separate groups.

Some aspects of the Convention are pictured on this page, including the opening invocation, one of several conferences with the press and two attractive distributors of some of the products made by RWDSU members.



**PRETTY PURVEYORS** of goodies turned out by Local 262 members were Luanna MacLachlan, daughter of Canadian Dir. Tom MacLachlan, Ruth Freeman, daughter of Int'l Rep. John Freeman

**MEETING THE PRESS** at this, one of several press conferences, is Pres. Max Greenberg, seated in center with hands folded, as he answers reporters' queries.